

**Statement by the Republic of Seychelles**

**73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Sixth Committee: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its  
seventieth session (agenda item 82): Cluster I**

New York, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Republic of Seychelles, I wish to join other member states and reiterate our congratulations to you on your appointment as Chair. Seychelles would like to take this opportunity to wish you success in the discharge of your functions.

Seychelles aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Republic of The Gambia, on behalf of the African Group, and lends its support to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Seychelles wishes to express its appreciation for the work conducted by the members of the International Law Commission over the past year and for the inclusion of the topic of 'sea level rise in relation to international law' in the Commission's long-term programme of work.

As a Small Island Developing State, Seychelles is also vulnerable to the threat posed by sea level rise. With 90 percent of our population and socioeconomic activity situated on narrow coastal strips, and with more than 60 percent of our islands being low-lying, sea level rise poses a direct threat to the livelihoods of our people.

In light of the clear threats posed by sea level rise to islands and to coastal states, and in recognizing that the international community has not addressed the legal implications of sea level rise in a comprehensive manner, we call on the Commission to move the topic of 'sea level rise in relation to international law' to its current programme of work in order to examine the international law implications of this threat with the urgency that it deserves.