



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Viliami Vainga Tone
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
At the meeting of the Sixth Committee during its 73rd Session on
Agenda Item 9:1 Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework**

Trusteeship Council Chamber, Friday 5th October 2018

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

1. Since this is the first time for Tonga to take the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee and through you, we congratulate the appointment of your Bureau members and pledge our full support to you throughout the work of this Committee.
2. Tonga welcomes the allocation of the topic of “strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework” to the work of this Committee, as proposed in A/73/141. The inclusion of this topic in the work of this Committee provides the necessary platform dedicated to the timely review and modernization of the 1946 regulations in order give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and to ensure that it continues to be relevant and meet the needs of the Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

3. For a small island developing State like mine, with limited capacity, we rely heavily on the records and resources, registered with and published on the United Nations Treaty Series. Model instruments and treaty-making guides or handbooks provided through this platform have proven useful in our ratification and accession efforts. As such, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of cooperation of States with the United Nations in the provision of and publication of treaties.

4. Additionally, Tonga supports the call of the Secretary General for a more enhanced role of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs in this field, in particular supporting member States. My delegation would like to see further support and interaction from the Treaty section, particularly through capacity building, publications and technical assistance which are key to ensuring inclusivity, particularly for SIDS like Tonga. My delegation was fortunate to have been part of a capacity building seminar for this very purpose conducted by the Treaty Section.

Mr. Chairman,

5. To conclude, the inclusion of this topic, in this and future sessions, is vital and the review of the Article 102 regulations of the Charter are necessary in order to strengthen the international treaty framework.

I thank you.