



INVITATION

The Permanent Missions of Singapore, Fiji, Jamaica
and Mauritius to the United Nations

Invite you to attend a Virtual Side Event on the margins of the week
which was designated as International Law Week

SEA-LEVEL RISE AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

Wednesday 28 October 2020, 12.30 – 2.00 pm

With our distinguished panellists:

Mr. Bogdan Aurescu

Ms. Nilüfer Oral

Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles

Mr. Juan José Ruda Santolaria

Members of the International Law Commission and Co-Chairs of the International Law
Commission's Study Group on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law

In a discussion moderated by:

Mr. Lionel Yee, S.C.

Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore

And welcome and introductory remarks by:

H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations

***For Permanent Representatives, Deputy Permanent
Representatives, Legal Advisors, and Sixth Committee
Experts***

RSVP to: <http://bit.ly/28octevent>

To join the meeting, click the link or use the login details below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87381202787?pwd=cHFvMVRtdTVnelVtYjA5VWd4UzhWUT09>

Meeting ID: **873 8120 2787**

Password: **880258**

SEA-LEVEL RISE AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2019 Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate indicates that a sea-level rise of between 61 centimetres and 1.1 metres is now likely by 2100 in a worst-case emissions scenario. The rise could be substantially higher if the Antarctic ice disappears faster. Sea-level rise poses an existential threat to many countries, in particular low-lying island States. For others, sea-level rise will lead to major problems and challenges. It is therefore ultimately a challenge of the global commons that requires a multilateral approach.

Sea-level rise raises many questions of international law. Having considered that work on the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law" would contribute to the progressive development of international law and its codification, at its seventieth session in 2018, the International Law Commission placed the topic on its long-term programme of work. At its seventy-first session in 2019, the Commission moved the topic to its active agenda and established an open-ended Study Group on the topic, to be co-chaired on a rotating basis by Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Mr. Yacouba Cissé, Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles, Ms. Nilüfer Oral and Mr. Juan José Ruda Santolaria.

Based on the tentative programme of work set out in the Report of the Commission on its seventy-first session in 2019, the Study Group is expected to work on three sub-topics over the course of 2020 and 2021, namely, issues related to the law of the sea (in 2020), and issues related to statehood and issues related to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise (in 2021). Prior to each session of the Commission, an issues paper on the relevant sub-topic would be prepared by the Co-Chairs. This would serve as the basis for discussions at the session and subsequent reports on the sub-topic. The first issues paper, prepared by Mr. Aurescu and Ms. Oral, Co-Chairs of the Study Group for the sub-topic pertaining to the law of the sea, was published in February 2020. Issues covered include the possible legal effects of sea-level rise on baselines and outer limits of maritime spaces measured from baselines, on the status of maritime features and on maritime delimitation effected either by treaty or adjudication.

This event provides an opportunity to engage with Mr. Aurescu and Ms. Oral in an informal setting to gain a deeper insight into the first issues paper, including how they approached the need to preserve legal stability, security, certainty and predictability. It will also provide an opportunity to obtain a better understanding from Ms. Galvão Teles and Mr. Ruda Santolaria on what can be expected in terms of the future work of the Study Group, including work that will be done on the second and third sub-topics on issues related to statehood and the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

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VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations

Panel Discussion

- Moderator: Mr. Lionel Yee, S.C.
Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore

Panellists

- Mr. Bogdan Aurescu
- Ms. Nilüfer Oral
- Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles
- Mr. Juan José Ruda Santolaria

Members of the International Law Commission and Co-Chairs of the International Law Commission's Study Group on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law

Moderated Discussion with Participants