

**Statement by the Republic of Turkey  
on Agenda Item 80  
(Report of the International Law Commission on the work of  
its seventy-second session)  
at the Sixth Committee  
5 November 2020**

Madam Chair,

This year has indeed been an extraordinary year for the entire globe, with grave challenges that we continue facing to this day. It is unfortunately all too clear by now that the COVID-19 pandemic will define this era.

The International Law Commission was one of many bodies within the United Nations whose work was affected by the pandemic. Just as the distinguished members of the Commission themselves, we also wish that this year's session would have been possible. On the other hand, we recognize and agree that it is imperative to preserve the highly technical, complex and interactive deliberations that this body needs to carry out, in order to continue giving the comprehensive and scholarly, yet also practical legal analyses, guidance and advice that it always provides for the consideration of the General Assembly.

We support their continued work, and we thank the Chair-designate for the seventy-second session of the Commission and the Secretariat for the oral reports that were delivered on the dedicated efforts which are undertaken with this purpose.

We also would like to thank the Special Rapporteurs and Co-Chairs of the Study Group on sea-level rise in relation to international law for the reports and the first issues paper that they have prepared. We look forward to providing our comments on these topics after their formal consideration by the Commission and the publication of the Commission's annual report.

Turkey is pleased that, even though it was not possible to have the International Law Week in the traditional format and scope this year, Member States still had the opportunity to engage informally with ILC members on their ongoing work, including as regards topics such as sea-level rise in relation to international law.

Madam Chair,

Last week, we celebrated International Law Day, using this opportunity to also mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and of the rules-based multilateral system which we strongly support.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated more clearly than ever the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and multilateralism. International law can indeed serve as a key tool in this global endeavor. In this regard, we believe that Member States, and all other actors and stakeholders, should give serious consideration to how we can strengthen

international law, including its implementation, to ensure that the global community's response to future pandemics will be more effective, coherent and coordinated. The side event on the legal implications of pandemics, which we had the pleasure of co-hosting earlier this month, with the participation of distinguished members of the International Law Commission, provided us with various thought-provoking questions and ideas in this regard.

Madam Chair,

We would like to reiterate one more time our support to the International Law Commission and the invaluable work that it undertakes in the codification and progressive development of international law. We look forward to the results of their deliberations next year.

Thank you.