

# Sea-level rise: what are the implications for international law?

During this year's Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly, Freshfields will host its annual Public International Law Seminar. In keeping with our past events, a distinguished panel of speakers will explore a topical question of international law of interest to States, international organisations and businesses, judges, practitioners and academics.

The subject of this year's seminar will be 'Sea-level rise: what are the implications for international law?'

**Professor Nilüfer Oral** (Member of the International Law Commission and Director of the Centre of International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore), **Daphne Hong** (Director-General, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore), **Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin** (Secretary-General of the Hague Academy of International Law and Professor agrégé at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre-La Defense), and **Alexandra van der Meulen** (Counsel at Freshfields), will join **Will Thomas QC**, head of Freshfields' public international law group, in an hour-long interactive discussion. The speakers will consider a range of issues, including:

- What impact will sea-level rise have on existing maritime entitlements, features and boundaries?
- How will sea-level rise affect the statehood of vulnerable island States?
- Is existing international law 'fit for purpose' when it comes to addressing the potential impact of sea-level rise on the global community; or, is material change to the current legal regime necessary?
- What progress has the International Law Commission made in considering these issues?
- What is the view of vulnerable, low-lying States?

This year's seminar will take place virtually, via a webinar to be live-streamed on Tuesday 26 October 2021 at 12.30pm GMT (8.30am EDT).

We would be delighted if you could join us – please RSVP to confirm your attendance, using the 'Register Now' button.

Kind regards,

**Will Thomas QC**

**Head of Public International Law,  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP**

## Event details:

**Tuesday 26 October 2021**

Event time:

12.30-1.30pm (GMT)

## Speakers

### **Professor Nilüfer Oral**

Member of the International Law Commission and Director of the Centre of International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore

### **Daphne Hong**

Director-General, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore

### **Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin**

Secretary-General of the Hague Academy of International Law and Professor agrégé at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre-La Defense

### **Alexandra van der Meulen**

Counsel, Freshfields

## Moderator

### **Will Thomas QC**

Head of Freshfields' public international law group

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