



**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statement

**by Delegation of Viet Nam at the Sixth Committee
of the 76th Session of the General Assembly**

Agenda item 82: “Report of the International Law Commission”

Cluster II – Chapters VI (Immunity of State officials from criminal foreign jurisdiction), Chapter IX (Sea-level rise in relation to international law)

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Madam Chair,

I will focus my intervention on the Chapter IX of the ILC report, namely “Sea-level rise in relation to international law”.

My Delegation congratulates the Study Group and the entire Commission on the first report of the Study Group on issues related to the law of the sea.

Sea-level rise is an unavoidable trend.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its latest report entitled “The Physical Science Basis” confirms that global mean sea level is rising at an increasing rate.

Accordingly, from 1901 to 2018, global mean sea level rose by 20 centimeters, which was unprecedented since at least the last three thousand years.

It is projected that global mean sea level will continue to rise over thousands of years.

Sea-level rise threatens to cause immense socio-economic problems, destroy critical infrastructure, reduce arable land, displace people and incur or exacerbate humanitarian situations.

Hundreds of millions of people in small island developing states and low-lying coastal areas are at risk of inundation due to sea-level rise.

The study of the legal implications of sea-level rise would contribute to enhancing our understanding of the multi-faceted implications of this phenomenon.

Such is crucial in formulating our joint response to address the problem.

My Delegation shares the necessity and urgency to identify, understand and work together to address the legal implications of sea-level rise, so as to guarantee the rights and interests of affected countries and the international community as a whole.

The approach to address the implications of sea-level rise should ensure the stability and security in international relations, including the legal stability, security, certainty and predictability, without involving the question of amending and/or supplementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Viet Nam is one of the countries most heavily affected by climate change and the danger of sea-level rise.

This topic has always been our top priority in multiple platforms, including at the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

On 21 October this year, Viet Nam together with twenty member states, convened an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council to exchange views and enhance our understanding of the security implications of sea-level rise.

My Delegation supports the International Law Commission and the Study Group's plan to continue their study on sea-level rise in relation to international law.

We encourage the Study Group to further and thoroughly explore State practice, including the practice of small island developing states in the Pacific.

We are committed to engage and contribute to discussions on this topic at open sessions of the Commission and in the Sixth Committee.

I thank you, Madam Chair.