



## **Statement by the Republic of Cyprus**

### **Item 73 – “Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts”, Sixth Committee, 77th UN General Assembly, 13 Oct. 2022**

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election and wish you and the Bureau every success in steering our work.

We welcome the useful Secretary-General’s reports containing the compilation of 83 recent decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies referring to the ILC draft articles on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts (A/77/74), and the comments and information received from Governments (A/77/198).

The position of my delegation concerning the responsibility of states for internationally wrongful acts is well known. The ILC draft articles on state responsibility reflect customary international law, as well as a widely shared consensus about the international responsibility of States, and since their adoption they have been widely cited by Governments and national, regional and international legal bodies, and most notably by the International Court of Justice.

Inter alia, the draft articles contain rules such as in Chapter III, whereby international responsibility is entailed by a serious breach of an obligation arising under a peremptory norm of general international law, including the legal duty to withhold recognition of acts in violation of norms of international law of peremptory character (*jus cogens*), such as the creation of an illegal territorial situation by use of force. Furthermore, my delegation specifically attaches great importance to draft article 41 that provides for particular consequences in the case of serious breaches by a State of an obligation arising under a peremptory norm of general international law, including the obligation to cooperate to bring the serious breach to an end by lawful means.

In concluding, Cyprus believes that the Sixth Committee should allow for further substantive discussions on the topic, at least on a biannual basis, including also on aspects of state responsibility that go beyond the framework of the draft articles.

I thank you.