



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

MALDIVES

Statement delivered by

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On the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Seventy-Fifth
Session (Resolution 78/108) at the Sixth Committee

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Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Seventy-Fifth Session (Resolution 78/108)

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Thank you, Chair,

1. We extend our appreciation to the International Law Commission, and we appreciate the progress made by the Study Group on Sea Level Rise in relation to International Law and welcome the additional paper to the Second Issues paper.
2. The Maldives and most Small Island Developing States lie on the front lines of the global climate crisis, where the neglect of our global commons is most deeply felt, and the consequences of humanity's collective inaction reach the shores of those least responsible.
3. Most of our land lies less than one meter above sea level. Year after year, we divert millions—resources that could be utilized to build schools, hospitals, and roads—just to hold back the tide.
4. While the immediate effects of climate change and sea-level rise manifest vividly in SIDS, we all know that this is a global threat that demands a coordinated, international response. We require a unity of purpose that transcends borders, politics, and the temporal confines of election cycles.
5. We need robust, integrated action—legal, economic, technological, humanitarian. And the work of the ILC is foundational here, providing the legal architecture necessary to address sea-level rise within the framework of international law.
6. We also support the AOSIS Leaders' Declaration on Statehood and Sea-Level Rise, which enshrines the principle that sovereignty and statehood must not be dictated by the shifting contours of geography. The law must evolve to affirm that rising seas do not erase nations; our identity and sovereignty reside in our people, our language, our customs—and they will endure.
7. The Second Issues paper and its accompanying document underscore that rising sea levels pose significant challenges for the protection of affected individuals and communities. We commend the International Law Commission for harmonizing needs-based and rights-based frameworks, acknowledging their complementary roles.
8. We must approach references to the 2016 draft articles on disaster protection with caution. Unlike natural disasters, climate change is a human-made phenomenon; thus, while these articles offer valuable guidance, they should not supplant our analysis. Our discussions must also address transboundary harm and international accountability, especially adhering to the emitters pay principle.
9. We also appreciate the additional paper's recognition that international cooperation is a legal duty essential for effectively protecting those impacted by rising seas and addressing the complexities of statehood.



10. Only through collective action can we protect those affected by rising seas and ensure that the principles of statehood and sovereignty are preserved.

11. We call upon all Member States to actively engage with the ILC's work on sea-level rise. Let us ensure that international law evolves to meet the challenges of our time.

12. The Maldives extends its gratitude to the Study Group for their dedication. The past cannot be undone, but we are not powerless. By forging a legally sound, morally just response, we can still protect vulnerable communities and forge a future where justice and sustainability prevail.

I thank you.