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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF ERITREA

SIXTH COMMITTEE

79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 79: " Report of the ILC on the work of its 75th session - Chps: VI (Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea), VIII (Non-legally binding international agreements) and IX (Succession of States in respect of State responsibility)"

30 OCTOBER 2024, NEW YORK

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I would like to share the following brief remarks concerning Chapter 6 of the ILC report on the topic of '*Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea*'.

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea would like to express its deep appreciation to former Special Rapporteur Mr. Yacouba Cissé for his efforts and initiative in proposing the topic as well as leading the work of the open-ended Working Group. We thank Mr. Cissé for his first and second report in this respect.

Moving forward, Eritrea wishes to congratulate Mr. Louis Savadogo as the new Special Rapporteur. We would like to reiterate that in the course of the study of the topic, the aim of the Commission should be to identify issues of common concern.

While there is a decline in activities in Africa, particularly in the vast area spanning Somalian waters where there was an astonishing turnaround in the last decade, piracy and armed robbery still remain to seriously affect the stability of international waterways. The acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea put a great risk to life and endanger the safety of international navigation and trade.

Therefore, my delegation welcomes the ILC provisionally adopted Draft Articles on the 'prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea'.

However, Eritrea would like to reiterate that the Draft Articles should be read as part of an approach that prevents and represses piracy and armed robbery in a comprehensive manner, having the root causes of maritime insecurity in mind.

We believe that the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea can be rendered more effective by collective action in the development of capacity-building of coastal states, such as efforts undertaken by regional and sub-regional bodies, particularly on the African continent.

The root causes of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery at sea can often be traced to socioeconomic factors; illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing deprives coastal populations of their means of food and livelihood. We, therefore, think it is necessary to support coastal countries in strengthening their domestic legal frameworks in the prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

With regard to the Draft Articles presented, my delegation is of the view that the scope should safeguard the principle of sovereignty of coastal States. Littoral States have a vital and indispensable role in securing and promoting a sustainable and stable maritime ecosystem.

When it comes to the scope of piracy, my delegation stresses that the position of non-parties to the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea should be reflected in the Draft Articles, by expressing that the UNCLOS provisions on piracy reflect customary international law or through a reference to 'without prejudice to non-state parties to the Convention' as stressed in the commentaries of paragraph 2 of Draft Article 2.

Regarding piracy and the different maritime spaces in which different rights and obligations apply, we would like to share our concerns about the intersection in maritime zones, for example, when the crime of piracy is committed within the sovereignty as well as the high seas, this overlap could potentially reflect a conflict in who has jurisdiction over the crime. My delegation is of the view that it is for the coastal State to take the necessary measures for the repression of the acts committed in maritime zones subject to its sovereignty.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, my delegation reiterates its appreciation to the Commission for its work on '*Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery*' and we look forward to the third report of the Special Rapporteur before deciding on future steps on the topic.

I thank you.