



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations Te Aka Aorere

Sixth Committee – UNGA 80th Session: Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

New Zealand Statement delivered by Tim Witten-Sage, Legal Adviser

10 October 2025



Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair.

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Australia and Canada, as well as my own country, New Zealand.

CANZ countries continue to regard the Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts as a landmark achievement in the International Law Commission's body of work. The Articles, presented to this Committee in 2001, reflect a balanced framework for addressing State responsibility under international law.

We are grateful to the Commission for this enduring contribution. The Articles remain a central reference point in the practice of States and the jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals. Their widespread and consistent use over the past two decades underscores the authority that they carry, and reflects their role in guiding the application of international law in matters of State responsibility.

We welcome the Secretary-General's latest compilation of decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies that make reference to the provisions of the Articles, supplementing the six previous such compilations by the Secretariat on the topic. This most recent compilation provides a timely and useful update, reaffirms the Articles' continued relevance and influence in the practice of States, and evidences their authoritative status.

CANZ countries' view on the question of codification remains unchanged. We continue to be of the view that negotiating a convention based on the Articles would not be beneficial at this time. Such a process risks reopening settled issues and disturbing the careful balance that was achieved by the Commission over decades of work and deliberations. These risks could undermine the coherence and utility of the Articles as they currently stand.

In closing, we thank the Secretariat for its work in compiling and updating the decisions related to the Articles. We hope this valuable resource will continue to be maintained and expanded in the future.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair.