



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM 77, CLUSTER II: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK
OF ITS SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION (CLUSTER II)**

STATEMENT BY MR. MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL COORDINATOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Chairperson,

Liechtenstein welcomes this year's report of the International Law Commission and wishes to place on record our support for its important work. As we did last year, under this cluster we wish to take the floor on the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law", given the Commission's important role in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. The ILC can be assured of Liechtenstein's continued support.

In particular, Liechtenstein notes with appreciation the presentation of part two of the second issues paper, discussed in Chapter IX of this year's report, entitled "Reflections on Statehood". As we have emphasized in previous statements and submissions to the ILC on this issue, Liechtenstein believes that the will of those most immediately affected – grounded in their right to self-determination – must be at the center of all discussions regarding statehood. We were therefore pleased to see the right to self-determination raised as an aspect listed for consideration relevant to the issue of statehood in paragraph 167(e) of the report. Liechtenstein strongly supports the interpretation put forward in paragraph 199 that "the interests and needs of the affected population should be an essential consideration. In that regard, the preservation

of an affected population as a people for the purposes of exercising the right of self-determination should be one of the main pillars of the work of the Commission on the issue.” We similarly support the presumption of continuity of statehood outlined as a starting point in paragraph 201 and in paragraph 231. We see the path set out in paragraph 235 as an important and realistic path forward, particularly those elements reflected in sub-paragraph (c). In addition, Liechtenstein notes that the right to self-determination also applies to the peoples of non-self-governing territories, and would therefore encourage the use of the term ‘countries’ in addition to ‘States’ where appropriate.

We look forward to the ILC’s continued work on the subtopics of statehood and the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise in 2024, including through contributing to these deliberations where possible in due course. In the interim, we will continue to work with like-minded States to consider legal avenues to fight climate change, including on the issue of sea-level rise as a whole.

I thank you.