



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

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PSIDS Statement: Sixth Committee Agenda Item 82: Report of the
International Law Commission on the Work of its Seventy-Second
Session
Thursday October 28th, 2021

Madame Chair,

I have the honor to deliver these remarks on behalf of the PSIDS States in New York, namely, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Samoa.

We wish to congratulate you, Chair, and your Bureau on your much deserved credit to your posts. We have full confidence in your abilities to lead our Committee.

We also wish to thank the members of the International Law Commission for their hard work over the past two years during a global pandemic. We are grateful that members of the Commission, particularly through the Study Group on Sea Level Rise in Relation to International Law, managed to produce and consider an authoritative Issues Paper on the law of the sea aspects of the sea level rise topic, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention is critically important in establishing an effective legal regime for ocean governance., for

the legal order created under UNCLOS a point made clear in the Issues Paper. Currently, the mean low water lines along coasts around the world

applied in such a way that respects the rights and obligations in the Convention, including the rights and entitlements of island States flowing from their maritime zones. We note with appreciation the preliminary observations set out in para 104 of the First Issues Paper and particularly draw attention to the points in paragraph (e) and (f) that UNCLOS does not exclude an approach based on the preservation of baselines and outer limits of maritime zones.

the international law implications of climate change related sea level rise, noting the various questions raised that pertain to states. As indicated in the release of the latest IPCC Working Group 1 contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report