

**Agenda Item: 79.**

**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE**

**WORK OF ITS SEVENTY – FIRST SESSION**

**CLUSTER II: CHPS: IV (Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts), VIII (Immunity of the State officials from foreign jurisdiction) and X (Sea level rise in**

1. Mr. Chair, Belize would like to thank the International Law Commission for submission of its Report on the work of the 71<sup>st</sup> session to the General Assembly. In particular, Belize welcomes the ILC's decision to establish a Study Group to examine the legal implications of sea-level rise, a topic of critical importance to our State.
2. Sea-level rise is a global concern, but its effects are felt most strongly in small island developing States and low lying coastal

states like Belize. Our largest city sits at sea level, and our

of sea-level rise by 2100.

4. With this future on the horizon, the impacts of climate change can no longer be treated as hypothetical. Rising seas may affect SIDS most acutely, but these effects will soon be felt by all States. It is time for international law to respond to this issue

7. With this in mind, Belize calls upon the ILC to reflect on two key

8. First, moving towards fixed baselines *is* consistent with existing international law. In accordance with the language of UNCLOS Article 5, a number of SIDS have defined their baselines as those “marked on large scale charts officially recognized by the coastal

Existing rules and practices have developed to address headlines

that shift *gradually*, as they have in the past. They are not equipped to handle the drastic future projections for climate change-induced sea-level rise, which could lead to the total extinction of many