



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

---

NEW YORK, 31 OCTOBER 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**AGENDA ITEM 79, CLUSTER II: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK  
OF ITS SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION (CLUSTER II)**

**STATEMENT BY MR. MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr Chairman,

Liechtenstein welcomes the report of the International Law Commission, and we wish to place on record our support for its important work. We take the floor at this point in particular to express our support for the Commission's decision to include the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law" in its current programme of work, and its establishment of a Study Group to address the issue. Rising sea levels pose a grave threat to the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people across the globe in the vast majority of member states. Its most severe consequences are being felt in low-lying island states, notably in the Pacific, where rising sea-levels threaten access to key natural resources such as clean water and have already begun to inundate whole islands. For low-level island states, sea-level rise is not simply a practical issue, but may also impede their ability to fully exercise the right of self-determination. Given these human implications, the topic should be addressed with the protection of the rights of affected peoples at its forefront. We look forward to hearing more from the co-chairs on the three sub-topics, in particular on the statehood sub-topic, which has so far been insufficiently addressed in other authoritative fora.

I thank you.