



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by

**HAWANATU KEBBE
First Secretary**

**To the Sixth Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly**

“Responsibility of international organizations”

Agenda Item 88

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Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Sierra Leone notes the particular significance of the topic: “**Responsibility of international organizations**”, and the Sixth Committee’s continued consideration of this agenda item, including the recommendation of the International Law Commission (ILC) contained in paragraph 17 of its report (A/66/10) on the work of its 63rd session, to in particular: (a) take note of the draft articles on responsibility of international organizations in a resolution, and (b) consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles.

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports on this item: A/75/282 - comments and information received from Governments and international organizations; and A/75/80 - compilation of decisions of international courts and tribunals. Similar to the draft articles on “Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts”, the comments and information received from Governments and international organizations; and compilation of decisions of international courts and tribunals assist with underscoring the importance of the work of the Commission on the topic. We note with interest the some measure of growth in the reference to the draft articles in both national and international decisions by courts, tribunals and arbitral panels.

The delegation of Sierra Leone uses this opportunity to pay tribute to the Special Rapporteur, **Mr. Giorgio Gaja**, for his contribution in the preparation of the draft articles, his devoted work, and for the results achieved. We also thank the Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law. The adoption of the draft articles, which signified the completion of the project by the Commission in 2011 continues to emphasize the importance of initiating studies “*for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification*”.

Mr. Chair,

In the previous consideration of this agenda item, the General Assembly has taken note of the draft articles and commended them to the attention of

Governments and international organizations without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action. Sierra Leone hereby acknowledges the importance of the principle of responsibility in international law, in which acts can be attributed to a State or an international organization, given that such acts constitute breach of an obligation in force. The breach considered as an internationally wrongful act must entail international responsibility. Therefore, as in the case of States, when an international organization interacts with other subjects of international law, it must also be required to incur certain consequences as a result of its acts.

The delegation of Sierra Leone has taken note of the debate on the second limb of the ILC's recommendation to "consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles". Whilst respecting the view and agreeing that the draft articles, in the main, reflect progressive development, we note that the article 13 paragraph (1) (a) mandate of the General Assembly is not limited to codification alone or exclusively. Where consensus can be reached, the ILC and indeed the General Assembly must not be "*restrict[ed] to traditional topics, but [...] also consider [topics] that reflect new developments in international law and pressing concerns of the international community as a whole*".

As stated, we have followed with interest the debate on this item and the reports of the Secretary-General detailing the divergent views on whether the time is ripe for the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles. Since we may not resolve this question in this session, my delegation looks forward to our continuing consideration on this important topic.

In closing, Chair, the delegation of Sierra Leone is of the view that the item should remain on the agenda of the Sixth Committee, as we follow the practice regarding the responsibility of international organizations, the reference to the draft articles, and eventually to take action on the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles.

I thank you.