

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Bureau, draft resolution A/C.6/76/L.15 entitled "Protection of the atmosphere". The draft resolution is being presented under agenda item 82, "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-second session".

I wish to recall that the Commission at its seventy-second session, this year, adopted the draft guidelines together with a preamble, on the protection of the atmosphere on second reading. It also adopted the commentaries to the draft guidelines and the preamble.

In accordance with its statute, the Commission submitted the draft guidelines with the preamble to the General Assembly and recommended that the General Assembly:

- a. take note in a resolution of the draft preamble and guidelines, annex the draft guidelines to the resolution, and ensure their widest possible dissemination; and
- b. commend the draft preamble and guidelines together with the commentaries thereto, to the attention of States, international organizations and all who may be called upon to deal with the subject.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Commission and the Special Rapporteur, Professor Shinya Murase for concluding their work on this topic.

Two rounds of informal consultations have been conducted for the preparation of the present draft resolution that would reflect the views of delegations on how to proceed with the draft resolution presently before the Sixth Committee. This draft represents the outcome of these consultations.

Madam Chair,

I shall now go briefly through the contents of the draft resolution, which is of a technical nature. It comprises four preambular and four operative paragraphs, which draw on previous practice of the General Assembly in dealing with similar instruments prepared by the Commission.

The preambular paragraphs refer to the Commission's report, note the recommendation of the Commission and emphasize the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law and also note the importance of the topic in international relations.

In the operative paragraphs the General Assembly:

-welcomes the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on the protection of the atmosphere and its adoption of the draft preamble and guidelines and commentaries thereto,

-expresses its appreciation to the Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law,

-takes note of the views and comments expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee on the subject including those made at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, after the Commission had completed its work on this topic, and

-also takes note of the preamble and guidelines on the protection of the atmosphere, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, with the commentaries thereto, brings them to the attention of States, international organizations and all who may be called upon to deal with the subject and encourages their widest dissemination.

Madam Chair,

Before concluding, I take this opportunity to thank delegations for their constructive engagement. I also wish to extend my appreciation to our colleagues from the Secretariat and thank Trevor Chimimba, Carlos Ivan Fuentes and Patricia Georget for their support over the past weeks.

In conclusion, it is my assessment that the text of the draft resolution presently before the Committee reflects the common views of all delegations on how best to proceed; I commend it to the Sixth Committee for its consideration and recommend that it be adopted without a vote.

Thank you Madam Chair.