UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

International Law Commission

Statement

by

Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld,

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel,

Geneva, 29 April 2025

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished members of the International Law Commission,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. Chair, and the entire Commission, for the warm welcome. Since this is the first time that I address the Commission since my appointment as the United Nations Legal Counsel, I want to reaffirm the continuing support of the Office of Legal Affairs, and of me personally, for the Commission and your work.

We are meeting at this session in challenging times for the Organization. Certainly, you are all aware of the severe financial and liquidity crisis facing the Organization, which impacts the work of the United Nations broadly and has led to the Commission's current session having to be reduced again this year to a single session of five weeks. As has already been explained, this regrettable outcome has arisen directly as a consequence of the measures that have had to be implemented

as a consequence of the financial and liquidity crisis. It is not unique to the ILC. Other parts of the work of the OLA are also impacted.

As you noted in your communication to me, international law and the rule of law are essential to addressing the severe global challenges that confront us today. I recognize your concerns about the potential impact of a reduced session on the International Law Commission's vital work. The Commission is to be commended for its unwavering dedication to advancing the progressive development and codification of international law, which remains an essential cornerstone of our collective endeavors to maintain international peace, security, and justice.

Despite the challenges the reduced session has brought, Mr. Chair, I congratulate you, and the Bureau on your election, and together with the Secretariat for the determined spirit with which the session has been planned.

Please be assured of the Secretariat's steadfast commitment to supporting the International Law Commission. The Secretariat stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to ensure the session's success.

***

Distinguished Members of the International Law Commission,

At this juncture, I would like to continue the tradition of providing members with an overview of the activities over the past year of the Office of Legal Affairs, which is the central legal service of the Organization. As members know, my predecessor Miguel de Serpa Soares led the Office until September last year, and

ASG Mathias was acting Legal Counsel from then until I took up the position in February this year.

I will start with work of the Codification Division, your Secretariat.

***

[COD]

Over decades, the Codification Division has been the silent force behind the Commission and the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly and has served as repository of their functioning.

[Sixth Committee]

In 2024, the Sixth Committee successfully concluded the consideration of the agenda items allocated to it and maintained its tradition of adopting its resolutions and decisions without a vote.

In relation to the work of the Commission, the Committee considered your 2024 report. The participation of the Commission members, including the Chair, the Special Rapporteurs, and the Co-Chairs in the debate was important in ensuring the dialogue between the two bodies. The dialogue between the Commission and the Sixth Committee is one of the prime drivers of the progressive development of international law and its codification within the United Nations.

The Sixth Committee also considered the agenda items entitled “Protection of persons in the event of disasters” and “Crimes against humanity”, on the basis of the articles completed by the International Law Commission in 2016 and 2019, respectively. As you are all aware, the Sixth Committee made great strides with

respect to both topics. The adoption of the two resolutions on these agenda items was a remarkable achievement.

Regarding the item "Protection of persons in the event of disasters", the General Assembly decided to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument by the end of 2027 at the latest. The dates, location and modalities will be determined by the Assembly at its upcoming eightieth session. The Assembly also decided that the Sixth Committee will resume its session for up to five days by April 2026 at the latest, in order to prepare a consolidated text including the draft articles and the proposals submitted by Governments, within the framework of a working group of the Committee.

With respect to the item "Crimes against humanity", the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, to meet at United Nations Headquarters in New York for three consecutive weeks in early 2028, and for three consecutive weeks in 2029, to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. For such purpose, the Assembly also decided to convene a preparatory committee for the Conference, to meet from 19 to 30 January 2026, and for four days, in 2027, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Assembly will refer to the Conference, inter alia, a compiled text, to serve as the basis for negotiations, consisting of both the draft articles and a compilation of proposals for amendments to the draft articles submitted by Governments. The Conference will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers having received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, representatives of interested regional intergovernmental

organizations and other interested international bodies attending as observers, and observers of relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

[Programme of Assistance]

As you know, the Codification Division is also responsible for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. The Programme of Assistance remains important for Member States, and the Organization, as a capacity-building pillar in international law and the promotion of the rule of law.

The activities of the Programme have continued to include the organization and facilitation of high-quality training programmes in international law: the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague, and three Regional Courses in international law - for Africa in Ethiopia, Asia-Pacific in Thailand and Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law forms another component of the Programme of Assistance. I am very grateful to members – present and former – who have made significant contributions by recording lectures, drafting introductory notes to legal instruments and assisting in developing its Research Library.

[OLC]

I now turn to other areas of activity of the Office of Legal Affairs. I will begin by highlighting a few issues of public international law dealt with by the Office of the Legal Counsel.

OLA has provided legal advice on several matters arising during a number of conflicts on which the Secretary-General has had reason to act. In relation to the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as developments in Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to mention just a few of relevance at present, my Office has advised on and dealt with questions spanning international humanitarian law, the provision of humanitarian assistance, the mandates of peacekeeping operations, the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including the inviolability of United Nations premises, property, and assets.

Regarding the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Secretary-General has consistently emphasized the need for respect for international law. He has consistently condemned the horrific terror attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023 and has demanded the release of all hostages. He has also demanded respect for international humanitarian law in Gaza, including the obligation to agree to relief schemes, and respect for the rules protecting civilians and humanitarian personnel. The situation on the ground is dire, and the humanitarian aid that entered during the previous ceasefire is now blocked.

I wish to refer to the adoption by the General Assembly, in May 2024, of resolution ES-10/23 on the "Admission of new Members to the United Nations", by which it granted additional rights and privileges to the State of Palestine vis-à-vis its participation in the sessions and work of the Assembly and in relevant international conferences and United Nations conferences. These additional rights and privileges took effect from the 79th session of the Assembly and include, for example, the right to make statements on behalf of a group, including among

representatives of major groups and the right to submit proposals and amendments and introduce them, including orally, including on behalf of a group However, this resolution has not changed the status of the State of Palestine in the United Nations as a non-member observer State.

On 19 July 2024, the Court delivered its advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which was welcomed by the General Assembly.

Following the issuance of the Advisory Opinion, the General Assembly on 18 September 2024 adopted a resolution [ES-10/24], in which it among other things, called upon the United Nations to respect and act in a manner consistent with the determinations made by the Court.

In December 2024, the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion of the Court on the Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, my Office transmitted to the Court in January of this year a dossier of "documents likely to throw light upon the question" formulated by the General Assembly.

These proceedings are directly related to the presence and activities of the United Nations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where the Organization has faced challenges with regard to the respect for its status, privileges and immunities, including the inviolability of its premises. The question posed to the Court is therefore directly relevant to the United Nations. The Secretary-General submitted

a written statement to the Court formulating his legal position on the relevant obligations of Israel as a Member State of the United Nations and as an occupying Power.

Yesterday, 28 April, I appeared before the International Court of Justice to deliver an oral statement on behalf of the Secretary-General in those proceedings. In total, 38 States and 4 other international organizations are scheduled to participate in those public hearings during this week.

[Ukraine]

As in previous years, my Office continued to provide advice on a number of issues arising out of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

On 23 February, in a statement on the occasion of the third anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Secretary-General recalled that the full-scale invasion of Ukraine launched by the Russian Federation was in clear violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. He reaffirmed the urgent need for a just, sustainable and comprehensive peace – one that fully upholds Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the UN Charter, international law, and resolutions of the General Assembly.

On 24 February of this year, both the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted resolutions addressing the situation. For its part, in the morning of 24 February, at the 20th plenary meeting of its resumed eleventh Emergency Special session, the Assembly adopted two resolutions:

(i) resolution ES-11/7 titled "Advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine", sponsored by a number of Member States, including Ukraine, in

which the Assembly noted with concern that the "full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has persisted for three years", called for de-escalation, an early cessation of hostilities, and a peaceful resolution of "the war against Ukraine". This resolution reiterates previous language of the General Assembly on international law. and

(ii) resolution ES-11/8 titled "The Path to Peace", sponsored by the United States, whereby the Assembly reaffirmed the Organization's commitment to maintain international peace and security and to peacefully settle disputes, and imploring a swift end to the conflict and urging a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Three amendments proposed by a number of European Union States to align the text with resolution ES-11/7 passed. An amendment, proposed by the Russian Federation was rejected.

The Security Council, in the afternoon of 24 February, adopted without any amendments resolution 2774, which was proposed by the United States and was identical to the United States proposal in the Assembly. Prior to its adoption, four European Union members of the Council and the United Kingdom introduced three amendments (similar to those introduced and adopted by the Assembly), two of which were vetoed by Russia, while the other failed to obtain the required number of votes. Two amendments proposed by the Russian Federation (including one analogous to its proposal in the General Assembly) also failed to obtain the required number of votes. The resolution was adopted with ten votes in favor, and five abstentions.

My Office provided procedural advice, including regarding the application of Article 12 of the Charter which, as you may recall, provides in paragraph 1 that "while the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it under the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests." The understanding was that since in the present instance, the Assembly would consider and take action on the draft resolutions in the morning at a time when the Council was not considering the matter (given that the Council's consideration was scheduled for the afternoon of the same day), the holding of the Assembly's meeting and discussion of the subject matter was consistent with Article 12.

It is worth noting that in accordance with the practice of the Assembly, Article 12 does not prevent the General Assembly from generally considering, discussing and making recommendations on items which are on the agenda of the Security Council. The General Assembly has interpreted the words "is exercising" in Article 12 in a restricted fashion, as meaning "is exercising at this moment", and, consequently, it has in the past made recommendations on matters which the Security Council was also considering. Legal opinions on this matter were published in the United Nations Juridical Yearbook for 1964, 1968 and 1991.

[International Court of Justice more generally]

Cette année, d'autres développements importants ont eu lieu devant la Cour internationale de Justice. La Cour fait face à une charge de travail d'une ampleur inédite. Parmi les affaires dont elle est saisie figurent certaines des questions les plus pressantes des affaires internationales, et il lui est de plus en plus souvent

demandé d'indiquer des mesures conservatoires, qui sont contraignantes pour les parties à un différend.

La Cour a reçu un volume inédit de communications écrites et orales dans le cadre des procédures consultatives en cours, venant d'États membres de l'ensemble des groupes régionaux des Nations Unies.

La Cour a notamment reçu 91 exposés écrits et 63 observations écrites de la part d'États et d'organisations internationales dans le cadre de la procédure relative aux obligations des États en matière de changement climatique. Un nombre sans précédent de 96 États et 11 organisations internationales ont participé aux audiences publiques dans le cadre de cette même procédure en décembre 2024. La Cour délibère actuellement sur cette affaire.

L'ensemble de ces éléments atteste que la Cour internationale de Justice connaît aujourd'hui un niveau de sollicitation inédit, témoignant de la confiance que la communauté internationale et le grand public lui accordent.

[Privilèges et immunités]

Permettez-moi également de formuler quelques observations fondées sur notre travail relatif au statut, aux privilèges et aux immunités de l'Organisation. Comme je l'ai indiqué précédemment, la situation entre Israël et les territoires palestiniens occupés a donné lieu à un certain nombre de questions relatives aux privilèges et immunités de l'Organisation et de son personnel. Au cours des derniers mois, nous avons fourni des conseils quant aux restrictions à l'importation de marchandises, au refus ou à la restriction de visas pour le personnel des Nations Unies, à l'immunité de juridiction, à l'inviolabilité des locaux et à la confiscation des biens des Nations Unies, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns. À ce propos, il est important de rappeler

que les privilèges et immunités sont accordés à l'Organisation afin que celle-ci, ainsi que son personnel, puissent remplir efficacement leurs objectifs.

Malheureusement, nous continuons à observer, dans différentes régions du monde, une tendance de certains gouvernements à remettre en question leurs obligations en tant que parties à la Convention de 1946 sur les privilèges et immunités des Nations Unies. Cela se traduit notamment par des tentatives d'introduire des limitations aux privilèges et immunités accordés aux fonctionnaires qui sont ressortissants ou résidents permanents du pays d'accueil. Nous constatons également une réticence croissante de certains gouvernements à prendre les mesures appropriées pour assurer le plein respect des privilèges et immunités de l'Organisation et de ses fonctionnaires dans le cadre de procédures engagées devant des juridictions nationales, où le Secrétaire général a fait valoir l'immunité. Il s'agit là d'une évolution préoccupante, car elle expose les Nations Unies à des contentieux devant les juridictions des États membres, allant ainsi à l'encontre de l'objectif de l'immunité qui lui a été accordée par ses États membres. La position de l'Organisation sur l'immunité est constante

[GLD]

[Accountability]

In the area of criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, the General Legal Division continues to support efforts to ensure criminal accountability of such personnel by referring credible allegations of criminal conduct to relevant national authorities. During the 2023-2024 reporting period, 25 referrals of UN officials and experts on mission were made regarding allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and fraud.

[Administrative law]

OLA is responsible for representing the Secretary-General before the Appeals Tribunal. In 2024, the Appeals Tribunal rendered 73 judgments in cases in which the Secretary-General was a party.

The Office also supports the Organization's efforts to ensure that United Nations staff members are held to the highest standards of conduct. Following the amendment of the Dispute Tribunal's Statute to clarify the scope of the review to be conducted by the Tribunal in disciplinary cases, the Office has been closely monitoring, and contributing to the development of, the Tribunals' jurisprudence in disciplinary matters in order to ensure that the Secretary-General can appropriately exercise his authority to impose disciplinary measures that hold staff members accountable for misconduct, including in matters involving sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and fraud.

The Office also advises on personnel and management matters, as well as on the development, interpretation and implementation of the Organization's human resources framework.

[Arbitration and Claims]

My Office continues to follow closely the Commission's work on the topic "Settlement of disputes to which international organizations are parties". GLD advises on the settlement of disputes arising out of contracts or other disputes of a private law character, in accordance with the Organization's obligation under Section 29 (a) of the General Convention. GLD remains involved in handling a range of disputes concerning the Organization, including at Headquarters, in the

context of peacekeeping missions, and those referred from the separately administered Funds and Programmes. In this connection, I recall our contribution to the study on the Commission's topic which provides information on the Organization's legal position and practice with respect to the implementation of Section 29 of the General Convention.

[PK and Operational Support]

OLA continues to provide legal advice and support in relation to the Organization's peacekeeping operations, special political missions and other field operations. The need for legal advice typically increases during the drawdown and liquidation phases of field missions. In this context, we have advised on a wide range of issues, including matters relating to institutional arrangements with the host country, the transfer of tasks and related arrangements with UN Country Team entities, the downsizing of personnel, the disposal of UN assets and the resolution of disputes arising out of the termination of contracts.

[ITLD]

Mr. Chair,

Allow me now to turn to the work of ITLD, the International Trade Law Division.

As members will know, the other legislative body established by the General Assembly is UNCITRAL.

With the support of ITLD, UNCITRAL finalized four legislative texts at its annual session last year.

The first of these texts is the result of ongoing work within Working Group III to reform investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS). The Working Group is developing individual reform elements, which will ultimately be included in a multilateral framework convention. At the last session, UNCITRAL adopted in principle the Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution, which aims to provide training, support and assistance with regard to ISDS and enhance the capacity of States, in particular least developed and developing countries, to prevent and handle international investment disputes. This important reform element is expected to play a crucial role in alleviating costs involved in investment cases and restoring the balance between the parties. This year, UNCITRAL is expected to consider a toolkit developed by the Working Group on dispute prevention and mitigation of international investment disputes.

The three remaining texts adopted by UNCITRAL at its last session continue its tried and tested practice of using model legislation and contractual clauses to achieve legal harmonization.

- The Model Law on Warehouse Receipts, which was developed jointly with the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), facilitates commercial transactions involving goods held in storage by providing a uniform legal regime for the use of warehouse receipts as collateral for financing.

- The Model Clauses on Specialized Express Dispute Resolution, developed by Working Group II, complement existing work by UNCITRAL on commercial dispute resolution by offering customizable solutions tailored to the specific needs of the parties, whether due to the nature of the dispute or the nature of their relationship. Working Group II is now working on the recognition and enforcement of electronic arbitral awards.

The Model Law on Automated Contracting, developed by Working Group IV, establishes a legal framework for the use of automation in commercial contracting, including through the deployment of artificial intelligence. It is the first text to be developed by UNCITRAL following the publication of a "taxonomy of legal issues related to the digital economy" in 2023, which also explored data transactions, digital assets, online platforms, and distributed ledger systems. Working Group VI has just completed work on a new treaty on negotiable cargo documents, which creates a new negotiable document of title, similar to a maritime bill of lading, that can be used for the carriage of goods by any mode or modes of transport. In March, I had the pleasure to address an event on the sidelines of the Working Group, which highlighted the potential of the new treaty to assist landlocked developing countries in accessing global markets. The text of the treaty will be presented to UNCITRAL for finalization and possible approval this year and subsequently to the General Assembly for adoption.

At its session this year, the Commission is also expected to decide on several proposals for new legislative work, which focus on the climate emergency and digital transformation.

- In the context of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, UNCITRAL will consider feedback from member States on a study on the legal nature of verified carbon credits. It will also have before it recommendations resulting from a colloquium on the "Law of International Trade for a Greener Future", which examined how existing UNCITRAL texts support climate action initiatives.

Turning to digital transformation, the Commission will consider separate proposals on legal aspects of digital payments and digital platforms. It will also consider the

status of two ongoing stocktaking exercises. The first relates to dispute resolution in the digital economy and is focused on issues such as the use of artificial intelligence and platforms.

[DOALOS]

Mr. Chair,

Let me now turn to the law of the sea and the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

I wish to first highlight the growing momentum towards the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement. To date, 112 States and the European Union have signed the Agreement, with 21 signatories having also ratified it.

The Preparatory Commission, established by resolution 78/272, to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement held its first session from 14 to 25 April in New York. Discussions focused on a range of issues, including rules of procedure for the Conference; terms of reference, operation modalities and selection processes for the subsidiary bodies; arrangements for the functioning of the secretariat; modalities for the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism; financial rules; and arrangements with the Global Environment Facility to give effect to the relevant provision on funding.

The second session of the Preparatory Commission will take place from 18 to 29 August 2025.

DOALOS, in performing the interim secretariat functions in relation to the Agreement, continues to implement a programme of activities to promote a better understanding of the Agreement and prepare for its entry into force.

In relation to sea-level rise, DOALOS supported the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the threats posed by sea-level rise, held on 25 September 2024. The meeting highlighted the multidimensional and unprecedented challenges posed by sea-level rise, and that solutions must be found within international law as the foundation for solving international problems. In this context, we look forward to the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on sea-level rise in relation to international law and the final report of the Study Group.

This is an area that is evolving rapidly, with several judicial bodies involved in clarifying international obligations in relation to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise. As you recall, the advisory opinion rendered by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 2024 found that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and excess energy stored in the atmosphere and absorbed by the ocean constitute pollution of the marine environment within the meaning of pollution under UNCLOS, triggering specific obligations for States Parties. The forthcoming advisory opinions of the ICJ on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, and of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, may provide further clarifications in this regard.

I also wish to note the important work of the International Law Commission on the topic “Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea”. These issues pose grave threats and enhancing international cooperation through the uniform

and consistent application of the relevant provisions of UNCLOS remains essential.

Regarding sustainable fisheries, 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. This occasion will be marked at the Eighteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement on the topic "The thirtieth anniversary of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement: looking to the future". Under the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Project of Assistance, a capacity-building project, DOALOS developed a Guide to the implementation of the Agreement.

Through its World Ocean Assessments, the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects continues to provide the latest ocean-related data and information to support policymaking to strengthen the science-policy interface for the implementation of SDG Goal 14. The third World Ocean Assessment is expected to be completed in December 2025.

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf adopted recommendations regarding the submissions made by Cuba, Brazil, and Iceland, for a total of 43 recommendations adopted to date.

As of 11 April 2025, the Commission has received 106 submissions, including 11 revised submissions from 74 State Parties.

Let me note that the full implementation by States of UNCLOS and its Implementing Agreements, as well as the effective participation by States in ocean processes at the United Nations, depends on their capacity to do so. This June, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law

of the Sea will focus on “Capacity building and the transfer of marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges”. DOALOS works with an increasing number of partners to meet the capacity needs of States and also benefits from the generous support of many donors to the trust funds that it administers. Working together on training courses, technical assistance projects and fellowship programmes, DOALOS does its part to strengthen national, regional and global frameworks for ocean governance.

[Section des traités]

Permettez-moi enfin de mentionner quelques points importants sur les activités de la Section des traités, qui remplit les fonctions de dépositaire du Secrétaire général pour plus de 600 traités multilatéraux et assure l'enregistrement et la publication des traités en vertu de l'Article 102 de la Charte des Nations Unies.

Un nouveau traité multilatéral, la Convention des Nations Unies contre la cybercriminalité, a été adopté par l'Assemblée générale le 24 décembre 2024. La Convention, qui sera ouverte à la signature à Hanoï en 2025, constitue le premier traité global destiné à prévenir et à lutter contre la cybercriminalité. Elle vise également au renforcement de la coopération internationale en facilitant l’échange des preuves électroniques pour les crimes graves.

Au mois de septembre, la Cérémonie des traités annuelle s’est tenue en marge du débat général de la soixante-dix-neuvième session de l’Assemblée générale, durant laquelle 25 États ont effectué au total 32 actions relatives aux traités. Ces États ont adhéré à des traités multilatéraux couvrant un large éventail de domaines, notamment les privilèges et immunités, les droits humains, le commerce

international et le développement, les transports et les communications, le droit de la mer, le désarmement et la protection de l'environnement.

Enfin, mon bureau contribue également au renforcement et à la promotion du régime conventionnel international en appuyant les travaux de la Sixième Commission sur ce point. La Section des traités prépare actuellement un rapport du Secrétaire général pour appuyer le débat à venir au sein de la Sixième Commission sur « le rôle de la technologie dans l'évolution de la pratique conventionnelle ». Cet échange de vues, qui examinera l'impact de la technologie sur les processus d'élaboration des traités et le développement du droit international, est opportun compte tenu du rôle croissant des technologies de l'information dans notre travail. Le rapport fournira des informations sur la pratique des États membres et des organisations internationales et nous permettra de mieux comprendre l'évolution de la technologie dans le domaine juridique. Je suis convaincue que ce débat profitera également aux travaux de la Commission.

***

[Conclusion]

Distinguished Members of the International Law Commission

Allow me once more to wish the Commission all the success in fulfilling its mandate and a fruitful continuation of this session. The Office of Legal Affairs will continue to serve the Commission with the highest standards of diligence, professionalism and dedication.

Thank you very much.