

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

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Mr. Chair,

Sierra Leone aligns this statement with the statement of the African Group delivered by my delegation and add these comments in our national capacity.

We begin with our appreciation for the dedication of all 34 members of the International Law Commission to the mission of promoting the progressive development of international law and its codification, despite the challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank the current chair of the Commission, **Mr. Pavel Sturma**, as well as the incoming Chair designate **Mr. Mahmoud Hamoud**, for their work to ensure plans are in place to progress the Commission's work during this difficult period.

Like the African Group, Sierra Leone attaches great importance to the ILC's mandate to assist the General Assembly in initiating studies and making recommendations for the purpose of promoting the "progressive development of international law and its codification" as set out in the ILC's 1947 Statute, derived from article 13 paragraph 1 of the United Nations Charter. The process of progressive development and codification of international law must always be inclusive and all-embracing in the consideration of law texts, State practice, precedents and doctrines as required by the ILC Statute.

Efforts in that regard ought to also draw inspiration from the main principal legal systems of the world, including African States practice as well as African customary law. Sierra Leone's increasing engagement with the work of the Commission is to ensure those important aspects are duly realised. In this year that we are celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, Sierra Leone reiterates our steadfast commitment to the principles and purposes set forth in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. We emphasise our commitment Unteadfast c

during our International Law Week tradition. Nonetheless, we appreciated the International Law Day on October 26, and the virtual briefing and interaction on October 28 with three special rapporteurs of the Commission and two of the five co-chairs of the study group on sea level rise in relation to international law. We welcomed the participation of many members of the Commission in that informal meeting and thank them all for their continued engagement.

Sierra Leone also appreciates the significant contributions of the five ILC special rapporteurs, who despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, submitted

