



**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017

**Statement by the United States of America  
72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Sixth Committee**

Agenda Item 91

**Session**

**Mark A. Simonoff, Minister Counsellor**

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**Protection of the Atmosphere**

Mr. Chairman, regarding cluster 2, Acting Legal Adviser Richard Visek delivered the US statement on immunity on October 25th. Accordingly, I will only discuss the topic "Protection

the purported identification of “obligations” or “requirements” in contravention of the 2013 understanding that work on this topic would not impose new legal rules or principles on current treaty regimes. This year the Commission has strayed even further from this understanding by provisionally adopting a guideline that purports to inject consideration of the atmosphere not only into the interpretation and application of treaties, but more broadly into the development of any new rule of international law.

Looking forward, we are particularly concerned by the Special Rapporteur’s proposed long-term plan of work. If it were to be followed, the work would continue to stray outside the scope of the understanding and into unproductive and even counterproductive areas. For these reasons we call upon the Commission to suspend or discontinue its work on this topic.