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**76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
21st Meeting of the Sixth Committee**

Agenda item 82: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-second session

Statement by: H.E. Ambassador Jane J. Chigiya, Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations

New York, 29 October 2021

Chair,

Micronesia aligns itself with the statements delivered in Cluster II of this agenda item by Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, and Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Pacific Small Island Developing States, respectively. We wish to make additional remarks in our national capacity.

For this Cluster, Micronesia will focus on the topic of sea-level rise in relation to international law. Micronesia takes careful note of the Commission's summary of the work done in its seventy-second session by the Study Group established to examine the sea-level rise topic, and we have a number of points to raise in this regard.

First, Micronesia supports the suggestion raised in the Study Group for treating sea-level rise as a "scientifically proven fact of which the Commission could take notice" for its work on sea-level rise, with the understanding that such sea-level rise is mainly anthropogenic. Theecheleve

Micronesian Presidents' Summit reaffirmed soon afterward. In the Declaration, we express clear and considered views of what the existing relevant international law on maritime zones prescribes in the specific context of climate change-related sea-level rise. We also describe our current and intended future State practice undertaken in order to honor the obligations that arise from these views. The preservation of maritime zones and the rights and entitlements that flow from them in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise is supported by both the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and the legal principles underpinning it and represents, among other things, a vital exercise of our right to permanent sovereignty over our natural resources for the sake of national development and survival. Additionally, as a necessary corollary, Micronesia is obligated to accord respect to any other State that preserves its maritime zones in accordance with this view of the relevant international law, just as we trust