



General Assembly

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Agenda item 79

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-first session

Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Extension of the term of office of the current members of the International Law Commission and other related matters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [74/186](#) of 18 December 2019, in which it decided that the International Law Commission would hold its seventy-second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 27 April to 5 June and from 6 July to 7 August 2020,

Recalling also its decision 74/545 of 2 April 2020, in which it decided to postpone the first part of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission and to extend by one week the second part of the session so that it would be held from 29 June to 7 August 2020,

Recalling further its decision 74/559 of 23 June 2020, in which it decided that the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission would be postponed to a later date,

Taking into account the continuing situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

(a) Decides that the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission shall be postponed and shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2021, and that the seventy-third session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2022;

(b) Urges the International Law Commission to further explore means to make progress on the topics in its programme of work in the absence of a formal in-person session of the Commission in 2020, and to closely engage with the Sixth Committee during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly;

(c) Requests that the Secretariat explore and prepare options to enable the International Law Commission to effectively conduct sessions remotely, or otherwise make progress in its work remotely, including but not limited to technological



solutions such as virtual multilingual videoconferencing platforms, and adjustments to the normal scheduling of meetings, including in the event that the Commission is unable to hold in-person sessions beyond 2020;

(d) Requests that the International Law Commission and the Secretariat report to the Sixth Committee on the matters referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) above at the Committee session to be held during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly;

(e) Decides that the terms of office of the current members of the International Law Commission shall be extended by one year such that they will expire on 31 December 2022, in order to permit the current membership to complete consideration of the topics on the programme of work for the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions that are at an advanced stage;

(f) Stresses that the decision to extend the terms of office of the current members of the International Law Commission is made on an exceptional basis, owing to the unprecedented circumstances arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that this decision is without prejudice to article 10 of the statute of the Commission and does not constitute a precedent, either for the Commission or for other bodies of the United Nations with elected members;

(g) Reiterates its appreciation for the efforts of the International Law Commission to improve its methods of work, and encourages the Commission to continue this practice;

(h) Invites the International Law Commission to continue to take measures to enhance its efficiency and productivity and to consider making proposals to Member States to that end.
