

**SPEECH OF MR TAHA ALMASRI, PARTICIPANT AT THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR, AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION**

30 May 2025

Mr Chair,

Distinguished members of the International Law Commission,

Esteemed colleagues and friends,

It is an honour for me to address the Commission today, and to do so in my capacity as a participant from the State of Libya at the fifty-ninth Session of the International Law Seminar and representative of the participants from the Africa region. A region which has made, and continues to make, meaningful contributions to the development of international law.

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At the start of this week, twenty-five of us from across the globe were parachuted into the final week of the Commission's seventy-sixth session. An exceptional session. Shortened down due to the financial situation of the United Nations.

What did we find when we landed in Geneva?

We found:

A welcoming Commission, whose members generously shared their wealth of knowledge, diverse experiences and infectious interest in international law.

A community of scholars, private practitioners and state advisors from across legal traditions each contributing a unique perspective on the topics under consideration by the Commission.

An inclusive Seminar, which has – through the Fellowship Programme – enabled participants from developing countries to become immersed in the work of Commission and enrich the quality of the Seminar.

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A week from now, for the first time in the history of the Seminar, we will engage in the experiment of simulating a Commission Plenary and Drafting Committee exercise.

If, in the few hours we spend considering Draft Article 7 from the topic on Immunity of State Officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, we are able to emulate a fraction of the attentiveness, incisive legal analysis and consensus-building demonstrated by you all this week – and no doubt – throughout this session, then I am confident that the experiment can be a success and that the future for the progressive development and codification of international law at the Commission is a bright one.

Thank you.