

**Permanent Mission of the  
Sultanate of Oman  
to the United Nations  
New York**



وَفَدًا  
سَلْطَنَةِ عُمَانَ  
الدَّائِمَةَ لِدَاءِ الْأُمَمِ الْمُتَّحِدَةِ  
نِيُورْكَ

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The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note referenced: LA/COD/40 dated 11 August 2022, regarding the General Assembly resolution 76/111 of 9 December 2021, Chapter II and Chapter III of the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third session entitled respectively "Summary of the work of the Commission at its seventy-third session" and "Specific issues on which comments would be of particular interest to the Commission". And further to the note of the Secretariat of the Sixth Committee on 31 March 2023, concerning the submissions on the International Law Commission (ILC) topic "**Sea-level rise in relation to International Law**" (subtopics of **Statehood and protection of persons affected by sea-level rise**).

In this context, The Permanent Mission of Oman has further the honour to attach herewith a copy of the information of the Omani competent authorities, concerning the above subject-matter.

The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 18 May 2023

Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations  
New York

## **(The Information on Statehood and protection of persons affected by sea-level rise)**

With reference to the request of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs to provide information on the above subject, the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry would like to report the following:

The Omani legislation regulated the issue of climate change and sea-level rise by the following laws and decisions:

Firstly: Royal Decree no. (36/2022) promulgating the System of Governorates, where Article (18) stipulates on some of its clauses the following:

- Clause (16) ***“taking the necessary measures to drain rainwater and floods, protect the precincts of valleys, fill swamps and water pools in open and public places, and oblige property owners to do so when such precincts are located on their property.”***
- Item (20) Management of beaches and valley streams.
- Item (24) Providing all aspects of support and assistance to the parties concerned with disaster response.

Secondly: Royal Decree no. (106/2020) setting up the Environment Authority, defining its terms of reference, and approving its organizational structure, where Appendix no. (1) stipulates the terms of reference of the said Authority, and the most important items related to the environmental protection are as follows:

- Item (1) proposing policies, strategic plans and requirements related to environmental protection and sustainability, pollution control and nature conservation, hence submitting such proposals to the Council of Ministers for approval and following up on their implementation, evaluation and development.
- Item (2) Ensuring the safety of the environment, combating pollution and preserving the different ecosystems within the framework of the fundamental objectives of sustainable development.
- Item (3) Protecting wildlife, conserving nature, preserving renewable resources and using, such resources in a sustainable manner.

Thirdly: Ministerial decision no. (20/2016) promulgating the regulation of Department of Climate Affairs, where Article (3) stipulates several items related to confronting climate change, as follows:

- Clause (1) stipulates ***“drafting and implementing the regulations and decisions related to managing adaptation to climate change and mitigating its effects.”***
- Item (10) stipulates ***“contributing to setting plans to mitigate the effects of climate change in line with comprehensive development plans and policies in the Sultanate of Oman.”***
- Item (15) ***“Prepare studies and research in the area of assessing the impacts and risks resulting from climate change”.***

Fourthly: Ministerial decision no. (53/2013) promulgating the regulation for land planning controls. The first clause of Article (6) stipulates that *“the precincts of valleys, mountains, roads, services, public utilities, and spaces designated for public utility shall not be prejudiced.”*

Fifthly: Ministerial decision no. (20/90) on the rules governing the defining seashore precincts, where some of its articles stipulated the following:

Article (2) *“The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning undertakes the precincts of sea beaches in each region in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion, taking into account the planning studies for regions, cities and villages at all levels, whether regional, structural or local.”*

Article (3) “When preparing planning studies for the use of areas adjacent to the sea shores, the following should be taken into account:

- A- Technical conditions for combating beach erosion as determined by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs.
- B- The natural factors and conditions specific to the region.
- C- Planning studies for the areas adjacent to it.

With respect to the human rights implications of the harmful effects of sea-level rise, and regulating the displacement of people affected by that, this issue has been addressed through the Ministry of Social Development by Ministerial decision no. (72/2014) promulgating the Social Assistance Regulation, and that the Third Chapter has been devoted under the title (Aid in Cases of Damage to Homes, Sole Sources of Livelihood, and Loss of Lives), where this chapter included seven Articles that regulated this issue, the most important of which is Article (16), which stipulates that “it is permissible, by a decision of an official, to disburse immediate financial assistance to an individual or family affected by natural factors, such as torrents, rain, storms, winds, and fires to provide for subsistence needs”.

**The legal opinion:**

Accordingly, the Government of the Sultanate of Oman has accorded high importance, through its legislation and laws, to climate change and its impact on individuals and addressing these changes, including the impact of sea-level rise.