



Statement

by

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Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

**Item 78: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law**

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Madam Chairperson,

As a Member of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, my delegation expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Programme, and would like to congratulate its officers on the intensification of its activities. My delegation would also like to welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/65/514.

Madam Chairperson,

The body of International law is increasing in volume and in relevance today more than ever. Consequently, its further understanding, specialisation, and dissemination are of paramount importance. Access to the law is a necessary condition for the maintenance of a fair and enabling international system, where States, organisations, and individuals alike are empowered and able to exercise their rights and observe their obligations.

My delegation values the Programme's capacity-building activities targeting developing countries. The enrichment of participants' competencies in the various fields of international law contributes considerably not only to their own expertise but ultimately to their States' and organisations' participation in the development of international law. Furthermore, the Programme's Audio Visual Library is of particular value, and we look forward to its further expansion. For equal access to justice by all members of the international community to be ensured, bridging the digital gap will be necessary, in order to reach out to the widest possible audiences of the South.

As we've heard from the Programme, the greatest challenge its Training Pillar faces today is the increase in demand for training. This is indicative of practitioners' appreciation of the need to develop their skills, as well as of the growth of the field of international law, both much welcomed trends. For the programme to be able to meet these expectations, cooperation with Member-States with adequate resources is indispensable. In addition, cost-effective activities could equally be envisioned. It would be advisable to consider alternative methods of dissemination, such as the holding of "Training of Trainers" Seminars, along the lines of the approach adopted by the United Nations in its international development activities. "Training of Trainers" ensures sustainability by empowering jurists at the local, sub-regional and regional levels to themselves conduct training programmes designed by the Programme so as to maximise the total number of its beneficiaries by branching out to a wider network of individuals seeking to enhance their capacities in the field. The Secretariat would ideally sustain its collaboration with the new trainers by providing technical assistance and oversight of their progress.

Madam Chairperson,

As the leading organisation for the development and promotion of international law, the United Nations, through its 6th Committee, should continue to encourage the activities of this Programme. My delegation stands ready to offer its support through further cooperation so as to identify how best to meet the changing needs of Member-States, organisations and individuals in an information age where the unhindered transfer of knowledge is essential to our common well-being.