



Statement

by

Lebanon

**at the
Sixth Committee**

**Item 77: "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law"**

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My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report, enclosed in document A/71/432 that provides us with information on the implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance in 2016 and the planned activities for 2017.

Lebanon is grateful to the codification division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its tremendous work in ensuring the continued implementation of the Programme.

In the Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Assembly proclaimed: *“every individual and every organ of society...keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights.”* This has been one of the core missions of the UN Programme for over half a century now.

More generally, the longevity of the UN Programme is a solid proof of its importance in the furtherance of international law as well as the advancement of the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, in particular for countries with limited capacities. The amount of lawyers, diplomats, jurists, legal officers who benefit from this programme continues to grow and is a sign of its vitality and vigor.

We have witnessed these past years an increase in the number of international treaties; treaties that are also becoming more complex. This will inevitably lead to an expansion of the training and dissemination’s activities, in response to a growing demand.

That is why it is critical to ensure the sustainability of the Programme through more predictability of its budget. Here I would like to reiterate Lebanon’s position that the Programme should be funded through the UN regular budget. Resolution 70/116 was, in this regard, a major step forward, with the General Assembly’s decision to provide an additional 1.8 million US Dollars in regular budget funding for the Programme.

Nearly a year ago, in November 2015, the 1st International Law Seminar for Arab States was held in Cairo. This training programme was a success. It brought together diplomats from all Arab States, offering a variety of classes in international law by renowned legal scholars as well as practitioners. These lectures were tailored to the Arab challenges and contexts.

It is therefore regrettable that a second seminar will not be taking place this year due to the lack of funding. We are, however, hopeful that this training will be organized again and eventually be held on a regular basis.

Before I conclude, I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, Ms. Virginia Morris, whose outstanding dedication to this Programme throughout the years has been instrumental to its success. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.