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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by:

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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

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Mr. Chairman,

Israel supports the goals of the UN's Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We believe that education of international law and its exposure to wide audiences, is key to enhancing a culture of peace and tolerance. In this regard, we note the tireless work done by the UN Codification Division in the Office of Legal Affairs, to keep this program on track, even in times of great financial difficulties.

Israel supports the further expansion of the Audiovisual Library, which serves as an efficient tool for the provision of both basic and advanced international law training, due to its high accessibility and provision of database free of charge. Furthermore, we note the importance of the regional courses as an effective and efficient means to facilitate and disseminate international law, especially in developing countries. We believe it is highly important that international law will be learned in a regional context, in a course that is adapted to the needs of the regional practitioners. In this regard, we hope to see similar initiatives held more frequently in the future, and we stand ready to assist in providing training and scholars.

As an expression of our support to the dissemination of international law and to the goals of the Programme of Assistance, Israel has made this year another voluntary contribution of 5,000 dollars to the Programme's trust fund, and in particular to its project of Audio Visual Library. We hope that this donation will contribute to the ability of the Programme to continue performing its important and valuable activities, and even expand them during the years to come.

I thank you.