



## **STATEMENT**

**By**

**H.E. Ambassador Eden Charles  
Deputy Permanent Representative,  
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
to the United Nations**

**In the Sixth Committee**

**On**

**Agenda Item 78:**

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

**United Nations Headquarters  
October 24, 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the presentation of the Codification Division (“the Division”), Office of Legal Affairs, on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We also align with the statement delivered by Chile on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (“CELAC”).

Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of the Advisory Committee, has been very supportive of this programme over the years. We have contributed to the Trust Fund established by the General Assembly to assist the Division in discharging its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that greater understanding and appreciation of International Law is one of the ways to foster the development of respect for the rule of law which is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman

We are very much appreciative of the efforts of the Division to enhance the capacity of international lawyers and diplomats globally to discharge their mandates to provide advice to their governments on several areas of international law. This has been observed through the hosting of workshops and seminars in different regions of the globe on several issues including the national implementation of international treaties and conventions.

In this regard, we have found the latest publication on the Summary of Jurisprudence of the International court of Justice (ICJ) to be useful as it brings to the attention of Member States the important work of the ICJ. Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that this could serve as a catalyst for more States to submit disputes which arise in their relations to settlement by peaceful means. Trinidad and Tobago is also of the opinion that the Division has done more than any other entity to enlighten States on the role of the ICJ under the Charter of the United Nations. Consequently more States have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ to settle disputes which arise among them by pacific means.

Mr. Chairman

The Report of the Secretary General also details the other initiatives which have been conducted by the Division over the past year. Numerous States have benefitted from myriad programmes conducted by the Division as it carries out its mandate to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The information provided on State Responsibility, for example, has assisted in clarifying this important subject which is sometimes misunderstood by States leading to dire consequences.

Mr. Chairman,

Today the importance of international law is observed in many activities conducted by States. It has provided for example, a legal framework for States to explore and exploit the living and non-living resources of different maritime zones within national jurisdiction as codified in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”). Over the past three decades the implementation of the provisions of the Convention has assisted States in their economic development. Trinidad and Tobago therefore welcomes activities commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention.

Trinidad and Tobago also welcome information provided in the Secretary-General’s Report on the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship which has assisted tremendously in the training of many lawyers who have become experts in matters relating to the law of the sea. Trinidad and Tobago therefore calls for Member States to renew their commitment to this important initiative.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago salutes the efforts of the Division in the establishment of the audio visual library which is used extensively by practitioners in the field of international law, students, as well as the general public. As a member of the Advisory Committee, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to play its role in assisting the United Nations as it continues its efforts to enhance the capacity of the Codification Division in promoting the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

Thank you.