

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

By

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at

the Sixth Committee

On

Agenda Item 80

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

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, at the outset, to associate my delegation with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the African Group and Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law for the role it is playing in the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of the concept of international law, since its establishment in 20 December 1965 pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 2099 (XX). In this connection, we welcome the Secretary General's Report on the Programme of Assistance contained in document A/68/521. We note with appreciation that the report covers a wide ranging activities undertaken by the Codification Division and the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We also wish to thank the chairman and secretary of the Advisory Committee, Ambassador KEN KANDA and Mrs. Virginia Morris, for the work well done by the Committee and the Division respectively during the current year.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation acknowledges that the scope of international law is expanding steadfastly along with the changing global realities. The interactions among nations, intergovernmental organizations, international nongovernmental organizations and non-state actors amplified the importance of international law, which is governing their relations and regulate other wide array of issues of great significance to the world community.

In fact, International law has been gradually developing in many ways and encompasses aspects of international life unlike the traditional scope of governing the relations between states only. Through the passage of time, individuals, groups and international organizations have become subjects of international law. It has also moved into new fields, inter alia, international trade, problems of environmental protection and human rights, state responsibility, settlement of disputes, state succession.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation firmly believes that the Programme of Assistance, in addition to helping enhance knowledge of international law, serves also as a means of strengthening international peace and security, and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. Hence, it is a matter of necessity, not of a choice, to expand the teaching, study and dissemination of international law for its wider application.

We, therefore, call upon the United Nations to organize regional courses in international law on a regular basis. In such a way, we believe, ample opportunity would be created for lawyers and other legal persons from developing and least developed countries to be abreast with latest developments in international law thereby further promoting cooperative relations among member states.

We note, however, with concern that the Report of the Secretary General on the Program of Assistance indicates that voluntary contributions have significantly reduced in recent years, and that the available resources are not sufficient to conduct any United Nations Regional Courses in international law or to further develop the United Nations Audio Visual Library of International Law in 2014-2015. In this regard, we concur fully with the conclusions of the Advisory Committee that voluntary contributions are not a sustainable method for funding the Regional Courses and the Audio Visual Library; and that there is a need to provide a more reliable funding method for these activities through the allocation regular budget.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia has demonstrated consistently its commitment to support the efforts of the United Nations by hosting the first, second and third United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for the African Region, which were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7 to 25 February 2011, 6 February to 2 March 2012, and 1 to 26 April 2013, respectively. We are always willing and ready to continue hosting the Regional Course and collaborate with the United Nations in this regard.

We are indeed glad to note that lawyers, diplomats and government employee from various African countries, including lecturers from African universities were able to interact with renowned practitioners and scholars and discuss important issues in fields of international law, with special emphasis on the African Continent. Such regional courses, therefore, play critical role in further enhancing the discourse on legal issues of greater significance not only for Africa, but for the rest of the international community in general.

Moreover, while expressing our appreciation to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations for the assistance extended so far, we would like to call upon the Office to further enhance its collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Institute of International Law, the African Law Commission and African Universities. This will help sustain the cooperation as it provides institutional framework for long term support to African efforts to build its legal capacities in regional and international engagements.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I wish to reiterate once again, Ethiopia's readiness to continue to cooperate in hosting United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa. We are convinced that, through the Programme of Assistance, Africa will be benefited not only

in updating itself with the progress and developments in the vast area of international law, but also to actively take part in all regional and international legal meetings to further promote the region's legitimate interests.

Thank You!