



IRELAND

Statement by

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at the

Sixth Committee
United Nations General Assembly
68th Session

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Agenda Item 80:

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

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Mr Chair,

As this is the first time that Ireland takes the floor in the Sixth Committee, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our committed support throughout this Session.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered earlier today.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on this item contained in document A/68/521 and to the Office of Legal Affairs, and the Codification Division in particular, for its work in implementing the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

We congratulate the Codification Division on the holding during the reporting period of an extensive International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague. We welcome too, the holding of Regional Courses in Addis Abba and Bangkok and consider worthy of consideration the suggestion of the Codification Division that both of these cities would provide suitable permanent venues for such courses, without prejudicing the possibility of holding courses at another location, as a means of enhancing efficiency, greater certainty and costs savings. In this regard, we are also very pleased to see that the Government of Uruguay has concluded a host state agreement with the UN for the organisation of a Regional Course for Latin America and the Caribbean.

My delegation commends the continued enhancements to the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, including the addition of new lectures and the recent launch of a new, more user-friendly website, as well as the provision the materials on DVD where most appropriate. The impressive growth in user numbers is a testament to the Library's high quality and innovative means of imparting legal information.

The Programme of Assistance has been a cornerstone of the UN's efforts to promote international law since 1965, consistently offering resources and training in an open and inclusive manner. Last year, Ireland was pleased to see the work of the Programme recognised in the High Level Declaration on the Rule of Law adopted by the General Assembly on 24 September, as we believe that a proper understanding of international law has a crucial role to play in furthering the rule of law at the national and international levels.

It is for this reason that Ireland has consistently made modest contributions to the Programme over the past several years, including this year. We believe that a regular commitment to providing some financial contribution to the Programme of Assistance is essential to its ability to carry out its functions in an effective and planned manner. We would encourage other States to consider making regular voluntary contributions.

Thank you Mr Chair.