

GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



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STATEMENT

BY

MR. KEN KANDA,

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 80

**'REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE TEACHING,
STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW'**

AT THE

SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 16 October, 2013

68th Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

I thank you for giving me the floor to make this statement on agenda item 80. At the outset let me congratulate you on your election as Chair, and to other members of your bureau. I also use this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his report, A/68/521 and the Secretariat, particularly the Codification Division, for their continued commitment towards the Programme of Assistance and their hardwork in ensuring that the programme is effectively implemented. It is an honour for my country and for me to Chair the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

The Programme of Assistance is at a crucial stage which requires the support of all member states to ensure its continuance for the benefit of all member states. Over the past months, informal briefings and consultations have been held by the Advisory Committee together with other interested delegations, particularly fifth committee delegates, towards exploring ways of ensuring constant and adequate financing, that is regular budgetary financing, since the voluntary contributions which the programme has relied on in the past has proved to be very unreliable. At the 48th Session of the Advisory Committee on 8th and 10th October, 2013, members of the committee continued in this engagement and I present to this committee the out come of the deliberations.

- a. As indicated in paragraph 73 of the Secretary General's Report, the Advisory Committee commended the Codification Division on those activities, which were of great value to practitioners and academics in countries around the world, and on efforts to enhance those activities.
- b. The Advisory Committee also recognized in paragraph 76, the major contribution of the Programme to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world for almost half a century, in addition to the increasing demand for international law training. The Committee further stressed the important role that Programme activities, particularly the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United

- Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, play in the furtherance of the Organization's rule of law programmes and activities.
- c. The Advisory Committee further recommended in paragraph 77 that the Secretary-General be requested to carry out in 2014-2015 the activities specified in the present report and in General Assembly resolution 67/91.
 - d. The Advisory Committee also noted with concern in paragraph 78, of the continued insufficient funding for the Programme of Assistance and concluded that voluntary contributions have not proven to be an adequate method for funding Programme activities specified in this report and in General Assembly resolution 67/91, in particular the Regional Courses and the Audiovisual Library, and that, consequently, there was a need to provide more reliable funding for those activities.
 - e. Consequently, the Advisory Committee again recommended in paragraph 79 that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/91, in particular operative paragraph 7 thereof, to provide to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, the resources necessary for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme, in particular the organization of United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis and the viability of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

Mr. Chairman

In concluding, it is my firm hope that this committee will support the above recommendations and send a strong signal to the 5th committee, towards ensuring that essential tools, including regular budgetary funding, are made available for the effective implementation of all aspects of this programme.

I thank you.