



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement of the United States of America
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**United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching,
Study and Wider Appreciation of International Law
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States thanks the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

The United States is pleased to participate on the Advisory Committee on this United Nations Program of Assistance which, we might note, wrestled with funding issues facing the Program in its annual meeting last week as it has never had to do so before.

The Program of Assistance, which was established in 1965, continues to make a great contribution to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law, and has clearly earned continuing, strong support.

Particularly in the context of a heightened focus on the rule of law, it is clear that knowledge of international law is a key component to furthering the rule of law at the national and international levels. Through a firm understanding of international law, new generations of lawyers, judges and diplomats gain a deeper understanding of the complex instruments that govern so many aspects of this interconnected world. Thus, the program of assistance is one of many important tools to strengthen the rule of law, person by person, country by country, region by region.

The United States thanks the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division in particular for its efforts in implementing the Program of Assistance, as well as the other entities at the United Nations that further the wider appreciation of international law. We very much appreciate the creative ways in which the Codification Division has been able to keep important

programs going in the face of limited resources, and we encourage it to continue those most commendable efforts. We are also hopeful that the rule of law exercise will serve to produce new opportunities for appropriate resource support for the regional courses in international law, the audiovisual library and the other valuable and well-run Program of Assistance activities. We say this because, again, it is important that this very excellent Program thrives for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.