



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

**Gilles Marhic
Minister Counsellor
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at the Sixth Committee

on

**Agenda item 77
"United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law"**

United Nations

New York

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

We are one year from a half century celebration of the UN Programme of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination, and Wider Application of International Law established with the goal of contributing towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States. There is also a consensus among the UN Member States that the Programme effectively contributes to the Rule of Law.

The knowledge of International Law is a basic prerequisite for establishing the "conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained," as provided for in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations. The need for International Law training and dissemination of legal knowledge and materials is a constant one and the important added-value of the Programme of Assistance is for the benefit of all States, whether developing or developed.

We reiterate our strong support for the Programme of Assistance and we welcome the Report of the Secretary General concerning the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2014, as well as the activities planned for 2015. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, for its efforts to strengthen and revitalize its activities under the Programme of Assistance in order to meet the changing needs of the international legal community in the 21st century.

The establishment and continuous expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law is an especially significant achievement, offering easy access to a vast range of legal resources, free of charge. We are particularly pleased to note the use of modern technology for this purpose. We note that, as set out in the Report of the Secretary General, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by almost one million users in 193 member States. This statistic accords with our view that the Audiovisual Library continues to be an important resource for the legal community, including students, international law practitioners and even historians and we encourage continued attention by the Codification Division to this project.

Furthermore, we note with appreciation that the Codification Division continued to disseminate legal publications and information through the Internet, and that it is exploring the possibility of

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

resuming its desktop publishing for one or more of its publications in 2015. We also note the contributions of the ICJ Registry, the Hague Academy of International Law, and the Carnegie Foundation to the International law Fellowship Programme.

We also note that the Codification Division organised a Regional Course for Africa in Addis Ababa from 7 April to 2 May 2014.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea to the wider appreciation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea and the work of DOALOS in this regard. We also note that two countries have made contributions for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship since the previous report.

We commend states that have provided voluntary contributions to the Programme to date, and encourage all states to consider making more frequent or increasing such contributions in the future in order to sustain the projected regional courses and the Audiovisual Library of International Law.

We note that the funding of the Programme faces challenges given the demand for the training it provides. In this regard, we welcome the Office of Legal Affairs' continued commitment to the Programme including the provision of resources from within his budget for the Programme. However, the provision of voluntary contributions has declined in recent years. As recalled in relevant UNGA resolutions, including Resolution 68/110, voluntary contributions "have not proven to be an adequate method for funding activities of the Programme of Assistance". We thank the Advisory Committee for its work and the progress made in bridging the divide of previous years. We note the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General and we hope that practical and sustainable financing solutions will be established soon.

I thank you.