

Algeria



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement

On behalf of the African Group

by

Mr. Mehdi REMAOUN

First Secretary

Before the Sixth Committee

72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

Under Agenda Item 80

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

New York, 16th October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation, once again, has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda item titled "United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law". As you may recall, the United Nations Programme of Assistance was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session through Resolution 2099 of 20 December 1965 to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

Mr. Chairman,

In the performance of the functions entrusted to him by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is assisted by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance, the members of which are appointed by the Assembly. At its seventy-first session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2017 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the Programme of Assistance. However, the Group is concerned that the report does not contain detailed information on the use of the additional two million dollars provided by the GA for the Programme of Assistance during the current budget biennium. We, therefore, call on the Secretariat to provide relevant information in a transparent manner to all Member States so that we can make informed decisions.

In this regard, it is essential that the Secretary-General complies with the request of the GA to provide information on the implementation of activities under Programme of Assistance and future plans for such activities, including administrative and financial aspects. The report should contain detailed information on the use of regular budget funding that has been increased by two million dollars during the current biennium. It should inform Member States of the transfer of any Programme of Assistance funds for any other purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations was founded with the conviction that it is international law that rules the relations among States. For a world order based on the rule of law, we need to study, understand, teach and disseminate knowledge of international law. This is the main purpose of this Programme and it has trained generations of state lawyers. We hope that Member States, like the

members of the African Group, remain committed to these objectives and to taking the necessary steps to ensure the continuation of the Programme of Assistance.

Our resolve has to be unequivocal. The Group urges all Member States to join efforts in ensuring that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are effectively implemented and that therefore regular budgetary funding is provided for the Programme of Assistance for the benefit of developing and developed countries alike. The Group is ready to work with all Member States to make sure that this happens.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group supports the work of the UN Programme of Assistance, particularly as it relates to the development of international law in Africa. It should be noted that the African Union contributes to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the lectures at the African Union. The African Institute of International Law, which is dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, has recently been established with the objectives to work on progressive development of international law and codification of international law in Africa, contribute to the objectives and principles of the African Union, and work on the revision of treaties in Africa. It should further be noted in this regard that the AU took a decision at the May 2013 Summit that African States should support proper funding of the Programme of Assistance including, if necessary, through the regular budget of the UN. It is, *inter alia*, for this reason that the African Group supports the proper funding of the Programme of Assistance through the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to recognize, on behalf of the Group, the Secretariat, both the Codification Division and the Division for Oceans and the Law of the Sea, all Member States who have made contributions to the Programme, the lecturers who contribute to the regional courses and to the Audiovisual Library, and the delegation of Ghana for its clear leadership and its tireless efforts at the Advisory Committee as the Chair.

We would like also to pay a particular tribute to Ms. Virginia Morris, who retired last month after almost 30 years serving the United Nations. As she stated, one of the most rewarding aspects of her career with the UN was working in the UN Program of Assistance. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the work she accomplished over years for the benefit of generations of lawyers from around the world, including Africa.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

Let us then renew our commitment to international law through the capacity-building enshrined in the Programme of Assistance.

I thank you for your attention.