



## BANGLADESH

**Statement under Agenda Item 80: *United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation on international law* at the Sixth Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly**

**Statement by:** Mr. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, First Secretary

**Date and venue:** Monday, 16 October 2017, Trusteeship Council Chamber

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Mr. Chairman.

Bangladesh thanks the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on activities undertaken by the Codification Division under the Office of Legal Affairs in 2017, and the resource requirements for 2018-19. We thank the Secretariat for its briefing this morning.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of G-77 and China.

We consider the Programme of Assistance to be a useful, catalytic tool in enhancing developing countries' capacity towards achieving the relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We thank the Advisory Committee for remaining sensitized to this linkage.

The breadth of issues covered by the International Law Fellowship Programme is indeed useful and relevant. We would urge the Secretariat to continue reviewing the course design in order to give exposure to the participants to evolving issues in the context of international law. It would also be useful to learn about participants' overall feedback and suggestions on the programme in the Secretary General's subsequent reports. We reiterate the need for giving preference to participants from the Least Developed Countries, in particular.

Bangladesh looks forward to participating in the forthcoming Regional Course on International Law in the Asia Pacific in Bangkok. We thank ESCAP for providing significant in-kind support for the course. We encourage continued enhanced participation of female participants, including among public officials.

Bangladesh considers the Secretariat's proposal to identify a regular venue or location for the regional courses to be a timely one. In case any such decision is deferred, Bangladesh would also be willing to consider providing venue for the Regional Course on mutually convenient dates in the coming years.

The Audio-visual Library of international law is emerging as a fairly resource platform. We strongly recommend enlisting the support of UN Country Teams, especially the Information Offices, where

available, for dissemination of information on the Audio-visual Library among the target audience in developing countries.

It may also be worth further examining the underlying causes for relatively less response from developing countries in using the Library. A structured survey conducted with limited resources could perhaps help identify if the contents of the Audio-visual Library sufficiently catered to the requirements of developing country contexts. The lack of computers and high-speed internet facilities may not be the singular reason for such lag. We welcome the podcast initiative to partly address the technical challenge.

It is positive that the desktop publishing activities have been resumed under a pilot project. Bangladesh would support allocating necessary resources for this evidently useful initiative from the Regular Budget for 2018-19. In general, Bangladesh considers the Secretary General's budget proposal for the next biennium for the Programme of Assistance to be a pragmatic one.

Bangladesh thanks Member States for their voluntary contributions to the various aspects of the Programme of Assistance, including for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. Our delegation looks forward to following suit with a small token contribution to start with.

I thank you.