



ECUADOR

Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations
Mr. Luis Oña Garcés
Second Secretary

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. LUIS OÑA GARCÉS,
SECOND SECRETARY OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM
80 "UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" (NEW YORK, 16
OCTOBER 2017)**

(Original version)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 80 entitled "Report of the Secretary General on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law". It is a pleasure to see you chairing this Committee, and we would like to congratulate you and the members of your bureau on your election.

The Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/72/517, which provides a detailed account of activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Assistance. We also commend the laudable efforts of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in carrying out the mandated activities under the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China reiterates its support for the Programme of Assistance as an effective tool for the greater knowledge of international law, as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

The Programme and its components are, among others, the cornerstones of the efforts of the United Nations to promote international law. The jurists, academics, diplomats and other public officials from developing countries greatly benefit from the regional courses in international law, fellowships, publications and the Audiovisual Library of International Law.

In this regard, the G77 and China welcomes that the necessary resources have been proposed in the regular budget for the biennium 2018-2019 for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

Earlier this year, the Regional Course in International Law for Africa held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, from 6 February to 3 March 2017 and the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, from 24

April to 19 May 2017 were organized with great success. The Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific is scheduled to be held at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, from 20 November to 15 December 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN Audiovisual Library of International Law is another essential tool that enables international lawyers all over the world to access low cost and high-quality legal training through the Internet. We believe that it is important to continue promoting the access and the utilization of the UN Audiovisual Library by scholars and academics in developing countries. We are also pleased to learn that the Codification Division is undertaking off-site recording sessions in various locations in order to promote a broader geographical and linguistic representation of the recorded lectures and to record lecturers who are unable to travel to New York.

The Group encourage the Codification Division to continue with the podcast project, which provides the lectures as audio that can be streamed or downloaded, in order to improve access to lectures in the Lecture Series for users in developing countries without reliable high-speed Internet and also to achieve its aim to make all of the lectures in the Lecture Series available as podcasts by the end of 2018.

Mr. Chairman,

The Programme of Assistance plays a vital role in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels. The promotion of the rule of law is one of the targets of Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The various activities under the Programme of Assistance provide the opportunity for individuals to acquire greater knowledge of international law. These capacity-building activities will contribute to the improvement of the participation of developing countries in different multilateral frameworks and instruments and ultimately help strengthen the rule of law. The Group of 77 and China remain committed to that objective as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 41st Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 on 22 September 2017, particularly the commitment to include the International Law Fellowship Programme, the seminars and regional training on treaty law and practice and the legal publications and training materials, as well as the necessary funding for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, in the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2018-2019 (para. 174). The funding from the regular budget will better ensure the continuation of related activities in the coming years.

Last but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs as Secretariat for its tireless efforts to promote knowledge in international law in an inclusive manner. We would also like to extend appreciation to all Member States which have contributed to the continued success of the Programme. While budgetary funding has been obtained, voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions, remain vital.

I thank you.