

GHANA



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GHANA'S STATEMENT

ON

*THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF
ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW*

MONDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2017 AT THE UN

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of H.E. Mrs. Martha A.A. Pobee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations as the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. H.E Mrs. Pobee expresses her deepest regrets for not being present for this meeting due to an urgent official assignment away from New York.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to report that the fifty-second session of the Advisory Committee was held on 3rd October, 2017 from 10.00am to 12.00 noon as required to consider the draft report of the Secretary-General which is contained in document A/72/517 now available to all members of the Committee. The Advisory Committee reviewed the implementation of activities undertaken in 2017 as well as activities proposed for the 2018-2019 biennium, including the resulting administrative and financial implications and as Chair, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Director of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in his capacity as Acting Secretary of the Advisory Committee and the staff of his Division for the good work done in ensuring that the Programme of Assistance met its set targets. A summary of the meeting of the Advisory Committee is captured in paragraphs 47-51 of the Secretary-General's Report.

I also wish to use this opportunity to thank Miss Virginia Morris, for her invaluable services to the Programme of Assistance. Miss Morris worked tirelessly for the Programme of Assistance for the past thirty (30) years until her retirement from active service some few months ago. It is also on a sad note that we bid farewell to Mr. Daniel Stewart, who has contributed immensely in ensuring the success of the Regional Courses. Mr. Stewart has decided to leave the U.N system to pursue his carrier in other areas of international law.

Mr. Chairman,

As consistently recognized by the General Assembly, the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations, which continues to provide the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law and thereby establish conditions under which justice and respect for international law can be maintained as envisaged in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

It would be recalled that when Ghana proposed this programme in the 1960s the decolonization movement was spreading across three regions with a history of colonialism- Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. During this important part in history, Ambassador Dadzie, a Ghanaian diplomat and very much the father of the Programme of Assistance, set out his vision of providing international law training from different regions and legal systems, primarily for the benefit of lawyers from developing countries. This vision, which received

support from the membership of the United Nations, continues to inspire and guide the work of the Codification Division on the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to the members of the Advisory Committee for their cooperation and support that made it possible for the committee to make great progress this year. I also wish to express my appreciation to Ethiopia, Thailand and Chile for hosting the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean respectively and once again, to the Codification Division for its tireless efforts in ensuring the successful implementation of this programme and specifically for the preparation and publication of the English version of the International Law Handbook. It may be noted that progress has also been made in the preparation of the French version, both of which will be used for the training courses under the Programme of Assistance as well as for distribution to academic institutions and Government training centres in developing countries.

In conclusion, as you know, Ghana has traditionally served as the coordinator of the draft resolution for this item. I have indicated my willingness to undertake this responsibility together with Mr. Solomon Korbieh, Ghana's delegate on the Sixth Committee, who has taken over the role from Mrs. Audrey Abayena.

I thank you.