



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand

before the Sixth Committee

of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 80:

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

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Please check against delivery

Madam Chair,

Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador, on behalf of Group of 77 and China, and by the distinguished representative of Cambodia, on behalf of ASEAN.

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document A/72/517, which provides a useful summary of the activities undertaken and to be undertaken in 2017 to implement the Programme of Assistance. It also highlights the crucial role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in this regard. Thailand wishes to commend the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for the work done thus far and for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the Programme of Assistance continues to fulfill its purposes and objectives.

Madam Chair,

For over half a century, the Programme of Assistance has tremendously contributed to the wider appreciation of international law. It has helped promote greater understanding of international law worldwide, which significantly helps advance the rule of law, maintain international peace and security, and strengthen friendly relations among nations.

Jurists, academics, diplomats, public officials and many others from all over the world, in particular from developing countries, have greatly benefited from the regional courses of international law, fellowships, materials, publications and the audiovisual library. These activities allow Member States with limited access to resources to strengthen their capacity and their pool of knowledge, which enables them to participate more meaningfully, either directly or indirectly, in shaping the progressive development of international law.

For instance, the Audiovisual Library is an essential tool which gives the wider public an open access to high-quality legal training and the useful archive of international law materials. Thailand is pleased to see that its usage has increased exponentially over the past five years across all regions. And we welcome the new addition to the Library over the past year—in particular the lectures by scholars from Asia on topics such as ASEAN Law and Regional Integration—which add diversity and breadth to the existing vast collection of international law teaching materials.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the Regional Courses in International Law, Thailand wishes to draw your attention to how it has brought people from various professions together to extend their networks. These people, after extensive discussions on issues and questions of international law with highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners during the Course, will be key in the further dissemination of knowledge to other people at the community level. It is our strong belief that this is how we can truly strengthen the rule of law.

Thailand has had the distinct honour to provide in-kind contribution to the Programme of Assistance by co-hosting with the United Nations several Regional Courses for the Asia-Pacific region in the past years. In fact, once again, Thailand is about to co-host another Regional Course with the United Nations, from 20th of November to 15th of December this year, at UNESCAP in Bangkok. Thailand remains committed to providing the same contribution in the future and stands ready to explore the possibility of becoming a regular contributor in this regard, with a view to improving the efficiency and providing greater certainty for the organization of these useful courses and with the hope that these courses will continue to receive regular and adequate funding from the United Nations.

Finally, Madam Chair,

Thailand reiterates its full support for the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. However, once again, we also wish to emphasize that effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance requires regular and adequate funding. It is our hope that the funding and resources of these activities remain in the regular budget of the Organization and that Member States will make voluntary contributions, financial or otherwise, to ensure the continuous and smooth functioning of the Programme.

Thank you, Madam Chair.
