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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE

AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

BEFORE

**THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE
73TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

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

(AGENDA ITEM 81)

NEW YORK

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(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr Chairperson,

1. Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement by the distinguished representative of the Gambia on behalf of the African Group. Namibia thanks the Secretary-General for his Report on this agenda item and we wish to express our appreciation for the invaluable work of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in implementing and further strengthening the activities under the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

Mr. Chairperson,

2. Namibia places such importance on the rule of international law, that Article 96 of our Constitution states that the basis of our Foreign Relations “fosters respect for international law and treaty obligations”. We believe this establishes a foundation for good governance, peace and security and, is a fundamental part of nexus between the rule of international law and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Indeed, the wider appreciation and application of International Law facilitates the maintenance of international peace and security which is a prerequisite for the promotion of social and economic development. The application of international law enables states to stand on an equal footing in their engagements with each other and to peacefully address the contemporary challenges with which they are confronted.
4. Given the foregoing, the positive role, especially as a benefit to developing countries such as Namibia, of the United Nations Programme of Assistance cannot be overemphasized. As an African Union Member State, Namibia, notes with satisfaction paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General’s Report that 191 of the over 260 applications received for the International Law Fellowship Programme, were from Africa. This alacrity by African nationals is a clear indication of the value that Africa attaches to the Programme of Assistance which was

established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 2099 of 20 December 1965 following an initiative by the Republic of Ghana.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. Equally important in achieving the intended results of the Programme of Assistance are national, regional and continental efforts to establish and/or strengthen existing programmes of International Law. Continental initiatives such as the annual Forum on International Law under the auspices of the African Union have contributed greatly to the efforts of the United Nations as it has led to the accelerated dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law in Africa.

Mr. Chairperson,

6. Over the years a number of Namibians have been able to enhance their intellectual horizons in the field of International Law through the United Nations Programme of Assistance by *inter alia* participating in the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa. The knowledge acquired by the government officials and other professionals who have attended the courses has contributed to the effective implementation of the general rules of public international law and the international agreements binding upon Namibia under Article 144 of its Constitution.
7. Many practitioners and students of International Law in Namibia also continue to rely on the material and lecture series which are freely and easily accessible on the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. Namibia, therefore, expresses its commendation to the Codification Division for substantially increasing the quantity, and diversity, of the lectures available on the website of the Audiovisual Library.
8. In this vein we would like to call upon the Codification Division to consider publishing the Law Journal of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as part of the research material under the Audiovisual Library. The journal serves as an important tool in creating greater awareness about the law in the SADC region and provides readers with the latest legal debates in this area.

9. Finally, we fully support the work of the Division as it continues to expand and improve the activities under the Programme of Assistance.
10. I thank you.