

Statement by Mr. Mohamad Ghorbanpour

Before the Sixth Committee

Agenda item 79

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

New York, 6 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to associate myself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Guyana on behalf of the G77 & China and would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran thanks the Chair of the Advisory Committee of Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law as well as the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its dedication to the effective implementation of the Program. The Program is beneficial particularly in disseminating knowledge of international law and building capacity for developing countries.

Due to its importance as a platform for information sharing, it was unfortunate that some of the training courses were cancelled due to the pandemic. Such a situation should drive us to deliberate towards planning for alternative virtual regional courses in international law while underscoring the importance of in-person training, which should never be replaced by virtual learning.

With respect to the Audio-Visual Library, we are of the view that it is important to continue to enrich the Library, which is an invaluable resource that brings high-quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the world free of charge. We welcome the arrangement of off-site documentation to record lecture videos to be uploaded on the site in order to enrich the available resources. The presentations of the ILC members, particularly Rapporteurs, on the international law day in the Sixth Committee or other similar occasions can be uploaded on the site, taking into consideration the criteria established in this regard. Linguistic and geographic expansion of the lecture series could also offer another option to enrich the Library. Another facet that can be incorporated into the content of the Library would be to provide lectures in the Persian language, which could be beneficial to students and scholars in our region and at least three Persian-speaking countries.

Furthermore, it is important that the the library be introduced appropriately around the world. The United Nations Information Centers based in Member States are fundamental tools to introduce those valuable resources to universities and other research institutions to extend its access.

It is also important to increase geographical representation among lecturers in the Audio-Visual library. This should be the case for lecturers within the regional courses. It is also important that the fellowships and the participants in the courses should be among diplomats as well as future decision-makers of countries to boost the impact and effectiveness of the program.

Finally, it is an honour to be a member of the Advisory Committee, and we will continue to support the program and contribute to its effectiveness.

I thank you.