



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by

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First Secretary

to the Sixth Committee of the Seventy-Fifth Session
United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 79:
“United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study and
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”

New York, 6th November 2020

[Please *Check Against Delivery*]

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively aligns this statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Ghana and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report **A/75/389** on the agenda item *“United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International law”*, which covers both the implementation of the Programme in 2020 and the activities planned for 2021. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, its committed staff led by the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, Ms. Jessica Elbaz, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance. We also commend the Permanent Representative of Ghana, Her Excellency Mrs. Martha Pobee, in her capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee, for her commitment and effective coordination of the Committee. We also thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work and commitment.

My delegation continues to reiterate its strong support for every opportunity for capacity building, training and skills management and the accessibility of much needed resource on international law, as capacity-development enables an informed approach to tackle emerging issues of interest to my country and the international community as whole. In this regard, we express our appreciation for the competitive selection and participation of a national of Sierra Leone in the regional course in International Law held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2020, and we look forward to further participation and capacity building opportunities.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation reaffirms the importance of the Programme of Assistance as a core activity of the United Nations since it was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965 (by resolution 2099), and the platform it has created in promoting a better understanding of international law to strengthen international peace and security, promote friendly relations and cooperation. The Programme has also created the platform for the promotion of capacity building and the sharing of best practices on emerging global issues among States. Successful participants are provided with the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of international law, equipping them to address emerging global issues of concern to the international community with a view to developing strategies of effective collaboration and cooperation.

Global concerns like the ongoing Coronavirus 2019 (Covid19) pandemic in the context of the mandate of the Programme of Assistance present opportunities and challenges. We regret that the outbreak of Covid19 adversely impacted on the implementation of certain activities, namely two of the in-person training programmes, and we commend the secretariat for being able to circumvent the restrictions of in-person meetings by conducting a self-paced remote learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity building.

We reiterate our support for the continued consideration given to gender equality and geographical distribution/representation in the selection of successful participants for the regional courses and the international law fellowship programme. We thank the regional Commissions for consistently providing cost-free venues for the delivery of the courses.

The importance of the audio-visual library is especially appreciated in the face of the current challenges of the Covid19 pandemic as it continues to provide low-cost high-quality content on international law to a wide range of viewers across the world. We congratulate Ms. Linda Bana of Ghana on being the successful recipient of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship award.

In conclusion, we note with appreciation that resources are continually being provided for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance and affirm our support to the Secretary-General's request for funding to be provided under the programme budget to undertake the activities specified in his report for the year 2021. We extend our thanks and gratitude to the Member States and international organizations for their voluntarily contributions provided for the continued successful implementation of the programme, and we continue to call for continuous sustainable financing through the regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States and international organizations in this regard.

I thank you.