

*The Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة
لمملكة المغرب لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement on behalf of the African Group

Under Agenda Item 81

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

New York, 21st October, 2021

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, the African Group would like to express its appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division for the activities which have been undertaken by the United Nations in pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Widespread Appreciation of International Law as outlined in the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/76/404 and submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/134.

Madam Chairperson,

The African Group has been a strong advocate for the primacy of multilateral action and ensuring the rule of law as a basis for international cooperation and therefore acknowledges the fundamental role played by the United Nations in strengthening the promotion of the rule of law through the implementation of the Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. For the African Group, the Program of Assistance is a key tool in advancing the capacity of all Member States to be able to participate on an equal basis in the international order.

Madam Chairperson,

The General Assembly has since its adoption of resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, recognized that an improved universal knowledge of international law plays an inherent role in assuring international peace and security and promoting friendly relations, and cooperation among states. As such, not only does the United Nations Programme of Assistance directly serve the very objectives and principles of the United Nations and the foundation of the current global order, it also represents an important assistive tool for the implementation of United Nations programmes and activities worldwide.

Madam Chairperson,

The African Group takes note with appreciation, of the activities outlined in the Secretary General's report in relation to the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses on International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the Alumni network of participants, the Hamilton Shirley

Amerisinghe Memorial Fellowship as well as the dissemination of legal publications through internet and other media. The African Group acknowledges the paramount importance of these activities in the dissemination of international law knowledge and capacity building of legal professionals worldwide, especially, in Africa. In this regard, it is particularly noteworthy that the Regional Course in International Law for Africa had the highest number of applications, with 128 male and 61 female applicants expressing their interest.

The high interest of African lawyers, government officials and experts in the various programmes and the increased use of the Audio-Visual Library underscore the apparent need for capacity development in the area of international law.

Madam Chairperson,

Although the Regional Courses in International Law could not be held as planned, we are grateful to the Codification Division for designing and providing applicants with a remote self-paced learning curriculum in French as an interim means of capacity-building.

The African Group further extends its appreciation for the pilot online Regional Workshop on International Human Rights Law which was held in French language from 9 to 11 March, 2021. The Workshop had 80 participants from 20 countries.

Madam Chairperson,

While commending these innovative measures to ensure continuity in the Programme of Assistance, the African Group would like to express its confidence in the traditional in-person programmes which offer delegates with unique opportunities to network and build lasting friendships that are highly valued in the multilateral system. In view of ongoing vaccinations against the COVID-19 virus, the African Group looks forward to improved conditions that would enable the hosting of all 3 regional courses in an in-person format soon.

The African Group similarly remains hopeful that the recipient of the Hamilton Shirley Amerisinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea will undertake her studies in 2022. We take note with appreciation, of the opportunity provided to her to access a virtual training series offered by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in the interim.

The African Group also welcomes the establishment of the alumni network to support continuing education activities pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/ 201 and the online repository of international law materials and publications made available to the alumni.

Madam Chairperson,

The African Group wishes to emphasize the importance of securing the necessary predictable budget for the activities of the Programme of Assistance and encourages all Member States to support the necessary allocations from the regular budget of the United Nations. The activities conducted under the Programme should definitely be a priority for the general membership of the organization. The Group thanks all Member States that continue to make voluntary and in-kind contributions for the activities of the Programme of Assistance, and once again, calls upon the Secretariat to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite interested entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions with a view to creating funding predictability for the Programme and expanding its activities.

As we conclude, ***Madam Chairperson,***

Permit me to thank on behalf of the African Group, H. E. Harold Adlai Agyeman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana, for his able chairmanship of the 56th Session of the Advisory Committee for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law which was held on 6th October, 2021 and express the full support and cooperation of the Group. We further applaud Ghana's dedication to the successful implementation of the Programme of Assistance since its establishment in 1965 and offer our sincerest gratitude and appreciation.

Thank you, Madam *Chairperson.*