



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 81:

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

United Nations

New York

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Respect for the principles of the United Nations and international law is one of the principles enshrined in our founding treaty, the Treaty on European Union. This inspired the creation of the European Union and guides the EU's action on the international scene.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN, world leaders renewed their commitment to abide by international law and to ensure justice. We must deliver on these commitments through the multilateral rules-based order that is anchored in respect for international law and that delivers justice for people.

With this in mind, the European Union and its Member States believe that the United Nations Programme of Assistance is an important tool to teach, study and disseminate international law both at national and at international levels. Throughout its fifty-six years of existence, the Programme has demonstrated its relevance and trained brilliant legal minds in the field of international law.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Two programmes that were conducted, under difficult circumstances, during this period are worth mentioning: the International Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

These programmes have greatly contributed to the formation of generations of specialists, many of them from developing countries.

Equally, the virtual Audiovisual Library of International law continues to contribute to the online teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of many students and tutors throughout the world. The Library has been of particular relevance during the unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic when the traditional methods of learning were transformed into online education with the help of online classes and other digital tools. The Lecture Series of the Audiovisual Library cover a variety of relevant topics of international law. It is important to make them more widely accessible, including through more linguistic inclusiveness. The lecture series, the mini series and other teaching and study materials would benefit a wider group of enthusiastic scholars and students in international law if they were provided in languages other than the six official UN languages. We cannot stress enough how important multilingualism is to ensure equal and broad access to all activities under the Programme.

In addition to enhancing the linguistic coverage, there is more scope to enhance the teaching-learning modes to reach out more broadly, in particular to the disadvantaged students and teachers wherever there is a need. The Programme should consider systems with strong offline functionality and systems built for use on basic mobile phones that would make the learning facilities accessible to those that lack the connections and devices to learn remotely. This will help reduce the digital inequalities and narrow the gap between those who have access to e-learning and those who do not.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We commend the work of all those that contributed to the development of the Programme, as well as the voluntary contributions towards its financing. We also express our appreciation for the work of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance in supporting the Programme and for the efforts of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in implementing its activities.

Throughout its existence, the Programme of Assistance has contributed greatly to furthering the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. We will therefore continue to support all its activities, training and research programmes.

I thank you.
