



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

**by the delegation of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova
delivered by Ms Augustina ȘIMAN
Second Secretary**

**on item 81 – United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law – of the Sixth Committee of
the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 21st of October 2021

Madam Chair,

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered under the current agenda item. Further I would like to add a few remarks from a national perspective.

My delegation thanks the UN Secretary – General for his comprehensive report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We appreciate the Codification Division's efforts in implementing the wide range of activities under the Programme of Assistance despite the existing challenges for a second year in row.

Madam Chair,

As indicated in the report of the Un Secretary- General, the outbreak of the pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the implementation of activities of the Programme of Assistance. In this regard, when referring, in particular, to the Training programmes we observe that a wide range of ununiform solutions were implemented to various regional groups: pilot online Regional Workshop on International Human Rights Law, remote self-placed learning curriculum, remote self-placed learning curriculum and online Regional Workshop on the Law of State Responsibility, etc.

We would like to express our concern regarding this varying approach, taking into account the declining statistical interest for the training programs in the pandemic circumstances. I shall enumerate the following examples based on the previous Reports: in the 75th session Report it was indicated that 135 candidates from Asia and Pacific countries expressed interest in the Regional Course, and in this year's report we see a number of 92 candidates; Similarly, the 74th session report indicated the interest of 173 candidates from Latin America and Carribbean for the Regional Course from, then in the 75th session report just 80 candidates from the same regional

group, and now the Office of Legal Affairs received just 32 applications; But probably, the most considerable impact that the pandemic has had is on the notorious International Law Fellowship Programme – with 808 applicants (as mentioned in the Report of the 74th session), 433 applicants (as mentioned in the Report of the 75th session), and 150 applicants (as mentioned in the current report).

Madam Chair,

The purpose of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, as defined in the relevant UN resolutions, is to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. Therefore, it is of great multilateral interest to find better resources and practices from the existing toolbox of modern technologies and digital means of communication, to uphold the continuous pursuit for an enhanced understanding of international law, even during the most challenging circumstances.

We thus advocate for a more uniform practice, that excludes remote self-placed learning curriculums. We encourage the Codification Division to explore the possibility of organizing, for the participants from all regional groups, on-line courses or virtual classrooms, where the professors and the participants can engage in active discussions. This *status quo* can also prove an opportunity for accepting more professionals from developing countries for the virtual training programmes, since no travel or accommodation costs are being involved, and will, most certainly, contribute to the wider appreciation of international law.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, my delegation stands ready to engage in productive discussions in how we can better adapt and revise the United Nations Programme of Assistance, in respect to the pandemic circumstances. We take this opportunity to thank all the countries mentioned in the Report for their generous voluntary financial contributions to the Programme of Assistance. As a country that benefits from the International Law Fellowship Programme, as well as from the resources of the UN Audiovisual Library, we value the possibility of expanding the understanding of international law of the current and future interested generations of international law practitioners and academia.

I thank you.