



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item - 81: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
21 October 2021, Conference Rooms 1-3
UN Headquarters New York

Madam Chair.

We align with the statement of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Nations.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the “United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law” and the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its adaptability in the implementation of the programme in light of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We note that a number of these in-person training programs were cancelled due to the pandemic, including the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the International Law Fellowship Programme. In this same vein, we note that the 2020 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, administered by Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, was postponed to 2022.

While we appreciate the online training programmes that were offered in lieu of the in-person trainings, including the Workshop on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and the public international law session of the online Summer Course of The Hague Academy of International Law, as well as the online continuing education activities provided to the alumni of the training programmes, we continue to find value in the traditional in-person training programs.

Filipino nationals have benefitted from and participated in various activities of the Programme of Assistance. It has helped in strengthening our capacities in international law and in the establishment of vital networks of contacts in the international law field.

We also wish to express our appreciation for the increasing lectures and related legal materials on a broad range of topics of international law in the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, and to support more diversity in terms of the legal traditions, gender balance and academic and professional experts in relation to this.

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Finally, it is in recognition of the importance of its work that the Philippines is committed to continue contributing to the Programme. We encourage all Member States with the means to do so to make voluntary contributions as well. END.