



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

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

***(Agenda item 81)***

Madam Chair,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Programme in 2021, together with the recommendations for 2022.

The Programme is an active and celebrated contributor for a better knowledge of International Law as a means for strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States.

Despite this wide recognition of the Programme, we note that the general public does not seem to be sufficiently aware of it. We thus encourage Member States to promote the Programme at home, across academic institutions, public administration and other organizations – so that students, young scholars, and young professionals are aware of the Programme, as well as of opportunities to engage in its initiatives and benefit from it.

Madam Chair,

As we approach the fifty-sixth anniversary, we note the Programme has kept up with an ever-increasing demand for training on - and access to - resources on International Law, delivering a comprehensive and high-quality training on a broad range of core subjects.



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This has been achieved by recurring projects in the Programme that have benefited countless brilliant and enthusiastic legal minds around the globe, many of whom from developing countries.

Portugal thanks the UN Regional Commissions for having provided the venues for the Regional Courses throughout the years. We hope that the pandemic-related impacts will soon subside, so that those venues may soon welcome new participants, for in-person courses in 2022.

Madam Chair,

We commend the outstanding work of the Office of Legal Affairs, including its Codification Division, for its activities in disseminating International Law and implementing the Programme, while ensuring administrative and financial efficiency.

We also praise the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs in maintaining and expanding the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, at a relatively low cost.

As revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic, reliable distance learning and remote training tools, like the Audiovisual Library, can have a positive impact in the future of individuals, communities, and nations, bridging inequality gaps.

In 2021, the Office of Legal Affairs made the most of those tools to address the exceptional circumstances resulting from the pandemic.



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Madam Chair,

The Audiovisual Library is a most useful tool for the study and dissemination of International Law at the global scale, having progressively strived for digital inclusion. Indeed, the content available in the Audiovisual Library – from the Historic Archives to the Lecture Series, the Mini-Series and the Research Library – covers all relevant areas of International Law and aims to be linguistically and geographically inclusive.

Portugal renews its call for the Audiovisual Library to also expand its inclusivity by having contents in languages that, albeit not official languages of the UN, have demographic and cross-regional significance. This could include, but not be limited to, Portuguese, as one of the most spoken languages in the world and the single most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.

Implementing this idea would have to rely on the active contribution of interested Member States, in coordination with the Office of Legal Affairs, and without any added costs to the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

As happens with so many other UN initiatives, the Programme often struggles with funding. We welcome the fact that the Programme has once again been included in the regular budget of the United Nations, while at the same time acknowledging that this funding alone cannot cover all the Programme's financial needs.

Voluntary contributions, such as the ones that Portugal and other countries have been making throughout the years, offer added support to the Programme.



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Moreover, my delegation argues that it would be useful to debate new and creative funding mechanisms, so that the Programme can fulfil its mission in a financially sustainable way. As in previous years, we would like to point out that establishing partnerships with NGOs, Universities, Research Institutes or even law firms might grant additional support.

Madam Chair,

In closing, celebrating all the many achievements of the Programme, Portugal salutes it for contributing to establish "*(...) the conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained*" – a determination set by the Peoples of the United Nations in the Preamble of the Charter.

As a member of the Advisory Committee, Portugal reiterates its pledge regarding the Programme and reaffirms its commitment to continue working in the promotion and dissemination of International Law as a means to build a fair, free and peaceful international society, as envisioned in the UN Charter.

Thank you, Madam Chair.