



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

336 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017

STATEMENT

by

Hawanatu Kebe
First Secretary

at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item: 82

**“Programme of Assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and
wider appreciation of international law”**

New York, 21st October 2021

Check Against Delivery

**Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively aligns this statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the **Kingdom of Morocco** on behalf of the African Group.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report **A/76/404** on the agenda item “*United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International law*”, which covers both the implementation of the Programme in 2021 and the activities planned for 2022.

We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, its committed staff led by the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, Ms. Jessica Elbaz, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance. We also commend the Permanent Representative of Ghana, **His Excellency Harold Adlai Agyeman**, in his capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee, for his commitment and effective coordination of the Committee. We also thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work and commitment.

Sierra Leone notes with appreciation that the usual activities highlighted for 2021 though not carried out as planned, as the world continues to grapple with the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. We, however, commend the innovation of “remote self-paced learning curriculum” and online workshops as interim means for capacity building. We also commend the “efficient use of available resources” and opportunities to navigate the current challenges to provide the much-needed capacity support on international law, especially to developing States.

We note the value and importance the regional courses continue to provide on international law, as a complementary initiative to the international law fellowship, providing an expanded access to rich teaching and study of international law in Africa, Asia-

Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. The Pilot and subsequent online regional courses are highly welcome by my delegation as this adds to the effective use of electronic and online resources in the wider dissemination of international law. We take note with appreciation of the selected topics for the online workshops and their importance to the international community as a whole.

Sierra Leone also welcomes the continued utilization of the Alumni network of participants to further promote greater understanding and interactive dialogue on contemporary international law issues and commends the initiative of the availability of online repository of international law materials to the network.

Madam Chair,

Sierra Leone notes with appreciation the increase in application and participation from the Africa regional courses from 147 in 2020 to 189 in 2021, indicating on the one hand the importance of this sessions to the African continent, while highlighting on the other hand, the effective implementation of the programme of assistance. We however note the decrease in female participation as a point of concern and recommends that the Committee identifies and develop ways to address this issue. Gender parity is of great importance to Sierra Leone, and we see the need for gender parity to not only be reflected across all initiatives within the UN systems but to be promoted as well. We, therefore, invite the Advisory Committee and Secretary to examine means to promote gender parity in the usual activities of the Programme of Assistance.

We continue to reiterate our strong support for every opportunity for capacity building, training and skills management and the accessibility of much needed resource on international law, as capacity-development enables an informed approach to tackle emerging issues of interest to my country and the international community. We continue to underscore the importance of the audio-visual library which is especially appreciated in the face of the current challenges of the COVID19 pandemic as it continues to provide low-

cost high-quality content on international law to a wide range of viewers across the world.

The delegation of Sierra Leone also notes with appreciation that resources are continually being provided for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance and affirm our support to the Secretary-General's request for funding to be provided under the programme budget to undertake the activities specified in his report for the year 2022. We extend our thanks and gratitude to the Member States and international organizations for their voluntarily contributions provided for the continued successful implementation of the programme, and we continue to call for continuous sustainable financing through the regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States and international organizations in this regard.

To conclude, **Madam Chair**, my delegation reaffirms the importance of the Programme of Assistance as a core activity of the United Nations since it was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965 (by resolution 2099), and the platform it has created in promoting a better understanding of international law to strengthen international peace and security, promote friendly relations and cooperation. The Programme has also created the platform for the promotion of capacity building and the sharing of best practices on emerging global issues among States. Successful participants are provided with the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of international law, equipping them to address emerging global issues of concern to the international community with a view to developing strategies of effective collaboration and cooperation.

I thank you.