



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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before the Sixth Committee

of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda item 81

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,

Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

New York, 21 October 2021

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word count: 731 words time delivered: 5 minutes
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Madam Chair,

1. At the outset, the Kingdom of Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.
2. Thailand would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Advisory Committee, for their commitment and tireless efforts in ensuring the implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance. We commend, in particular, the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs for its endeavours to carry on the Programme of Assistance, especially in light of certain limitations posed by the pandemic. Our appreciation also goes to those fellow countries, institutes and organisations, as well as individuals across the globe who have actively dedicated themselves to ensure the continuation of various activities under the Programme of Assistance.
3. For over half a century, the Programme of Assistance has served its purpose in facilitating dissemination and wider appreciation of international law across all regions, especially in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. By fostering better and deeper understanding of participants regarding international law, the Programme of Assistance makes a significant contribution to the promotion of the rule of law.

Madam Chair,

4. In consideration of this agenda item, allow me to flag the following points:
5. Firstly, dissemination of legal knowledge must be carried out **in an inclusive manner**, targeting a wide ranging audience. This means that such dissemination should employ as various modes of communication as possible. In light of this, Thailand shares the views of other delegates that the utilisation of digital platforms, such as podcasts and online courses, as well as off-site recording sessions should be further promoted and enhanced under the Programme of Assistance to contribute to wider reach and knowledge-sharing among the general public.

6. Secondly, Thailand notes with appreciation the continuing efforts of the Codification Division in increasing the Library's lectures and materials. Given the present challenging circumstances, Thailand believes that the Audiovisual Library of International Law website should be **updated and refurbished**, especially its user interface design (UI), which will also make it more user-friendly and attract more attention among the younger generation of international law enthusiasts. We also wish to see more recent videos uploaded to the website and support the Division's enlistment of more interns and research assistants to help prepare materials¹ for this purpose.

7. Moreover, in relation to the section of "online collections of treaties maintained by States", we believe that this could be a useful platform to gather information on countries' treaty database. We therefore wish to encourage fellow countries to link their treaty database with the website, in order to achieve **seamless connectivity of treaty database worldwide**. Thailand views the UN online collections of treaties as a very useful model. We have developed our national treaty database to better manage our treaty collections and are continually improving it to enhance access to information for the interested public.

8. Lastly, Thailand would like to **reaffirm its commitment** to support the work of the Codification Division by co-hosting the UN Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific. We are thankful that there are alternative arrangements for the 2021 Regional Course in International Law for the region to be held online between 15 November - 10 December 2021 and look forward to actively participating in the session. However, the provision of effective remote learning tools should not become a substitute for in-person trainings, and thus we look forward to hosting the Regional Course for Asia-Pacific in person once again in Bangkok as soon as conditions permit. Participants in the in-person Courses would not only benefit from the substantive quality of the training but would also have opportunity to build a network among Asia-Pacific's legal officials, including rare opportunity to interact with prominent jurists such as ICJ judges and ILC members who are invited as lecturers. Accordingly, Thailand genuinely values the UN Regional Course as one of the key platforms to promote international law for the Asia-Pacific region.

¹ A/RES/75/134, paragraph 18

Madam Chair,

9. In closing, it is important that the Programme of Assistance is fully supported by **predictable and adequate resources**. It is therefore our hope that the funding and resources of these activities remain in the regular budget of the Organisation and that Member States will continue to make voluntary contributions, financial or otherwise, to ensure the smooth functioning of the Programme.

I thank you.

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