



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item - 76: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
21 October 2022 Trusteeship Council
United Nations Headquarters New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Philippines aligns with the statement delivered by Pakistan for the G77 and China, Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement, and Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Philippines thanks 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 commends the efforts of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs to implement the programme despite COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions.

While we value the online training programmes that were offered in lieu of the in-person trainings, including the regional workshop on the peaceful settlement of international disputes which we participated in, we are pleased that traditional in-person training, which facilitate vital lifelong networks for its participants, has resumed – at least for the International Law Fellowship Programme. A networked community of international law advocates is an important pillar of the rules-based international order.

While acknowledging the innovative interim measures pursued, such as self-paced learning, we look forward to the resumption of in-person trainings for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law. For the Asia Pacific training in Thailand which will take place soon, we are pleased that a lawyer from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs is taking part.

There is value in the increasing variety of lectures and related legal materials on a broad range of topics of international law in the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law. We support efforts to enhance diversity in terms of the legal traditions, gender balance and academic and professional experts in relation to the materials in the audiovisual library as well as in the implementation of the programme as a whole.

The Philippines commends the work of the Codification Division on legal publications and its efforts to make them available to the international legal community in a timely and professional

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manner, including through desktop publishing. We are pleased that the Division continued the desktop publishing activities and published the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards* as well as the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*, which are credible sources of developments in international law. We acknowledge the technical expertise of the Division in identifying these developments.

We note that for 2023, a principal legal officer from the Codification Division will be redeployed to the Office of the Undersecretary General 'to allow for a more strategic and integrated management of training efforts, the leveraging of partnerships and the replication of good practices regarding legal technical assistance and in-person training programmes across organizational units'. We hope that said redeployment would indeed facilitate requests by Member States for the provision of legal technical assistance.

We thank Ambassador Harold Adlai Agyeman Representative of Ghana to the United Nations Advisory Committee for his leadership in chairing the fifty-seventh session of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

Finally, it is in recognition of the breadth, depth and relevance of the work delivered by the UN Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division – within its limited resources – 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