



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT
BY
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 6TH COMMITTEE 78TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

NEW YORK

[Please check against delivery]

Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group would like to express its appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division for their invaluable efforts in implementing the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Widespread Appreciation of International Law as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/78/514 .

Chairperson,

The African Group has always been a strong advocate for the rule of law at the international level, thus reiterates the fundamental role of the United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in this context. Over the years, the Program of Assistance has been proven to be an indispensable tool in advancing the capacity of all Member States, in a manner that facilitates their equal participation in international affairs.

Chairperson,

The General Assembly has since its adoption of resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, recognized that an improved universal knowledge of international law plays an inherent role in assuring international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among states. As such, not only does the United Nations Programme of Assistance directly serve the very objectives and principles of the United Nations and the foundation of the current global order, it also represents an important assistive tool for the implementation of United Nations programmes and activities worldwide.

Chairperson,

The African Group takes note with appreciation, of the activities outlined in the Secretary General's report in relation to the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses on International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the Alumni network of participants, the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, as well as the dissemination of legal publications through internet and other media.

The African Group acknowledges the paramount importance of these activities for Africa, in particular building capacity of African legal professionals as well as the dissemination of international law knowledge across Africa. The clear high interest of African lawyers, government officials and experts in the various programmes and the increased use of the Audio-Visual Library bears witness to this.

Chairperson,

The African Group welcomes the resumption of the African Regional Course in International Law held in Addis Ababa on 20 February to 14 March 2023. The Regional Course held in person involved 28 participants from 24 African countries. We would like to thank the Government of Ethiopia for continuing to host the regional course for Africa and providing the necessary support to its successful completion over the years.

We also note the convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme in person in the Hague from 3 July until 4 August 2023, with the participation of 21 participants, 11 of which were women, which the African Group particularly commends. Given the current positive trajectory of exiting the pandemic phase, we look forward to the resumption of all the activities of the program in person, particularly the three regional courses.

The African Group also welcomes the reported continuing education activities that were provided to the Alumni networks by the Codification Division and encourages the continuation and further development of such activities. In relation, we encourage the secretariat to extend the support available for the continuation of the African Universities Seminar on International Law, that has been recognized by the General Assembly Resolution since the 71st session.

Chairperson,

The African Group wishes to emphasize – once again - the importance of securing the necessary predictable budget for the activities of the Programme of Assistance and encourages all Member States to support the necessary allocations from the regular budget of the United Nations. The activities conducted under the Programme should definitely be a priority for the general membership of the organization. The Group thanks all Member States that continue to make voluntary and in-kind contributions for the activities of the Programme of Assistance and reiterates its call to the Secretariat to continue to periodically publicize the Programme of Assistance and to invite interested entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions with a view to creating funding predictability for the Programme and expanding its activities.

To conclude, Mr. Chairperson, the African Group wishes to thank H. E. Harold Adlai Agyeman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana, for his able chairmanship of the 58th Session of the Advisory Committee for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, held on October 3rd, 2023. We commend Ghana's continued leadership and dedication to the successful implementation of the Programme of Assistance since its establishment in 1965 and reiterate our Group's utmost support and cooperation.

I Thank you, Chairperson.