

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

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United
Nations**

On behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

New York, 19 October 2023

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Thirty-Three members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The member States of CELAC, since their inception as independent States, have declared International Law as the guiding principle of international relations and are bound by it in their relations with States and other subjects of international law.

Additionally, the Latin American and Caribbean States have continuously participated and contributed to the progressive development of international law, as well as to the establishment and operation of numerous organizations dealing with international law, to strengthen international peace and security and to promote friendly relations and cooperation among States.

CELAC considers that the knowledge and understanding of what is contained within the substantive rules of International Law constitute a necessary premise for its fulfillment and is of the utmost importance for this organization, whose principles and purposes are based on respect for International Law. To this end, CELAC Member States consider it important to strengthen the teaching, study and dissemination of International Law and all actions that the United Nations System can carry out in this field.

We thank the Secretary-General for his valuable report, which describes the activities carried out in the implementation of the United Nations Program on Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in 2022, as well as the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the program of assistance for the biennium 2023-2024 Assistance Program and the related administrative and financial implications.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the several elements contained within the Report, we consider it pertinent to highlight the following:

Firstly, Scholarships and courses – including the International Law Fellowship Programme that allows participants to attend the renowned summer courses at The Hague Academy of International Law, have a multiplier effect on the student and professional community. Over the decades, generations of diplomats and professionals from various States have reaped invaluable benefits as a result of the lessons offered by prominent experts in the wide range of topics on the international

legal agenda.

We note that, for countries like ours, regional courses are seen to be highly effective platforms for the teaching and dissemination of International Law. In this regard, we request that, in the regular budget for 2023-2024, the necessary financial resources should be allocated to the program to enable it to carry out the three regional courses.

In particular, CELAC welcomes the fact that the regional course on international law for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in May of this year in Santiago, Chile, in cooperation with the Chilean Foreign Ministry and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as it generates important benefits for our region, and dissemination of international law.

We would like to thank the program and all those who work day by day in it, for all the work deployed for the realization of the Regional Course, undoubtedly it was not an easy task after two years without being able to carry it out in person.

On information resources, The Legal Affairs Office deserves our appreciations for their efforts in establishing and maintaining 26 international law-related web sites, which not only contain valuable resources for the researcher but are also remarkably user-friendly.

Resources, such as the Lecture Series, the Historic Archives and the Research Library, and the Audiovisual Library, provide a particularly useful toolbox for the achievement of the goals of the Programme, which has the potential to reach millions of people throughout the world. Evidence of that is the access of the website by over 1.5 million of persons from 193 Member States.

Regarding legal publications, we welcome the work of the Office of Legal Affairs, particularly their sustained effort to continue furthering the electronic publishing program. The academic community benefits a great deal from access to the materials compiled online in signature publications, such as the legislative series and the summaries of advisory opinions and judgments from both the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Bearing in mind that the working languages of the Court are only English and French, the publication of the compilations of the summaries and decisions of the International Court of Justice in all the official languages of the United Nations is also of particular value. In many cases, this constitutes the only way for teachers, researchers and students of our countries to become familiar with the contents of the rich jurisprudence of the ICJ. No effort should be spared in maintaining this collection, ensuring that it is updated, as appropriate, and facilitating its widest possible dissemination at the national level.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, we recall that, during past sessions, Member States agreed to use the regular budget provisions to finance the activities of the Assistance Program, including The International

Law Scholarship Program; the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean; the United Nations Audiovisual Library for International Law; and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial on the Law of the Sea, in the event that voluntary contributions were insufficient, it shall be used to one scholarship per year.

Thank you.