

STATEMENT

78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 77

“United Nations Programme of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda. At the outset, my Delegation aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation expresses 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/78/515.

My delegation extends its appreciation to the members of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law and its Chair, H.E. Harold Adlai Agyeman, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, as well as the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for their continued commitment and support to the programme and its success.

Chairperson, Uganda fully supports the objectives of the Programme of Assistance as espoused in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, and reaffirmed in subsequent related General Assembly resolutions. We therefore welcome the activities highlighted in the current report under the Programme of Assistance covering the Regional Courses in International Law and the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Audiovisual Library, international law training materials, desktop publishing, dissemination and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

My delegation would like to express support for the Programme of Assistance and we welcome the full resumption of the Regional Courses and the International Law Fellowship. My delegation would like to emphasize the need to ensure diversity of legal traditions and gender balance among the among the participants of the regional training programmes. We would also like to express support for the funding of the activities of the Programme from the regular budget of the United Nations Organization, while also highlighting the importance of voluntary contributions in expanding and enhancing these activities.

Uganda reiterates that the traditional in-person programmes are still the most suitable and optimum vehicle for delivering the envisaged capacity building. Therefore, Uganda welcomes the convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme in person in the Hague from 4 July until 5 August 2023, with the participation of 21 participants, 11 of which were women, which the African Group particularly commends.

We call on the Codification Division to examine the issue of diversity in the identification of faculty members and joins the Advisory Committee in emphasizing the need to ensure diversity of legal traditions and gender balance among the faculty 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 resources on international law, as capacity-development enables an informed approach to tackle emerging issues of interest to the international community. We therefore note 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 2023.

In conclusion chair, Regarding the Audiovisual Library, my delegation would like to encourage the use of new technologies, particularly social media, to ensure the wider dissemination of its content. We welcome the revamping of the website of the Audiovisual Library to make it more user-friendly. The Codification Division should continue to enhance the content of the Audiovisual Library, which is an invaluable training resource for individuals and institutions around the world. In this regard, Uganda welcomes the initiative of conducting off-site recording sessions and suggests that the suitable presentations made by the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission to the Committee be uploaded to the library. In addition, adding lectures in more languages would be another way to enrich the content of the library.

I thank you.