

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**STATEMENT OF EGYPT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
ON “UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING,
STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW”
AGENDA ITEM 78 – 24 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on Item 78.

The African Group welcomes the report of the Secretary General which provides a detailed account of the activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law. We appreciate the diligence with which the Secretariat carried out its responsibilities, thus contributing towards the attainment of the goal of the Programme of Assistance which was set up in 1965, principally by the initiative of the African States, with the support of the other Member States to promote the Rule of Law through the teaching and dissemination of International Law, particularly for lawyers in developing countries.

It is significant to remind ourselves that today the internet based activities under the Programme of Assistance has benefited many lawyers and students in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The goal of the Programme of Assistance has become even more relevant now as the Organization has placed renewed emphasis on the promotion of the Rule of Law including the rule of International Law.

The African Group calls for urgent attention to address the challenges in particular, the financial and other resource constraints identified in the report of the Secretary General.

The fundamental purpose of the Programme of Assistance in promoting a better knowledge of International Law as a means of strengthening International peace and security, friendly relations and co-operation among States, can hardly be fulfilled without the needed financial resources.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the Codification Division for its efforts to strengthen the Programme of Assistance as to better serve the needs of Member States including the cost saving efforts to maintain the number of fellowships for the International Law Programme at The Hague Academy. We also appreciate the achievements of the Codification Division with respect to its desktop publishing programme, and online publications.

The African Group is pleased that a regional course on International Law was held in Addis Ababa in the years of 2010 and 2012, and another one is going to be held in 2013. We commend the Ethiopian Government for agreeing to host this course as well as the African Union for the voluntary contribution it has made for it and the organization of a regular study visit to its headquarters. We hope that such regional courses will continue to advance people's development in the field of International Law and its wider appreciation.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN Charter is an integral part of International Law, as such, Member States have an obligation to partake in the promotion and advancement of International Law as provided for by the Charter. The primary pillars and purposes of the United Nations, namely, Peace and Security, Development, Human Rights, and Rule of Law, can only be achieved through adequate teaching, study, dissemination, and wider appreciation of International Law. This will always be a guiding principle in the behaviour and conduct of States.

We strongly urge that adequate resources be provided under the regular budget to sustain the Audio-Visual Library on International Law, as well as the Shirley Amerisinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. More resources should also be made available to enable the Secretariat to publish research papers, and other sources of materials on International Law. This will make it easier for those Member States who have limited internet facilities to continue gaining access to the latest publications.

We, therefore, encourage Member States that are willing and able to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established to support various activities under the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the African group believes that respect and understanding of International Law cannot only be achieved through political means alone, but adequate teaching and dissemination thereof is crucial in that process. In this way, the ultimate objective of attaining wider appreciation and knowledge of International Law will be realized.

I thank you.