



IRELAND

Statement by

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Sixth Committee
United Nations General Assembly
67th Session

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Agenda Item 78:

**The UN Programme of Assistance in Teaching,
Study, Dissemination and
Wider Appreciation of International Law**

Check against delivery

Mr Chair

As this is the first time that Ireland takes the floor in the Sixth Committee, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered earlier today.

Thank you for this opportunity to make some brief remarks on the UN Programme of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive Report on this item, contained in document A/67/518.

Ireland places great importance on the core goal of the Programme of Assistance, namely to advance knowledge of international law, thereby strengthening international peace and security.

We wish to commend the Office of Legal Affairs, under the direction of Legal Counsel Patricia O'Brien, for the implementation of the Programme and its ongoing development. We are convinced that the Programme makes a real contribution to advancing the rule of law and we were pleased to see this recognised in the High Level Declaration on the Rule of Law adopted by the General Assembly on 24 September.

We welcome the holding of a regional course in international law in Africa this year, the forthcoming course for the Asia-Pacific, which will take place in November and note the plans for a regional course in Africa in 2013. In this regard, we note the efforts made to conduct the courses and also the fellowship programme in a cost-effective way.

We see great value in the Audiovisual Library of International Law, which provides a wealth of material on international law and international relations more broadly. We hope that a further expansion of the Audiovisual Library will be possible in 2013.

Mr Chair

The Programme of Assistance has been a cornerstone of the UN's efforts to promote international law since 1965. It has consistently offered resources and training in an open and inclusive manner, to build legal knowledge and proficiency at all levels.

It is for this reason that Ireland has made modest contributions to the Programme of Assistance in the past. Today, Ireland is pleased to confirm that we will again make modest voluntary contributions this year. We encourage other States also to consider making voluntary contributions.

Thank you