



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE SENATOR MARIANY BINTI MOHAMMAD YIT;
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA;**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 78: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN
THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION, AND
WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW;**

**AT SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 67TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK, 24 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, allow me to express my appreciation to the Secretary General for his report on the “United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law” as contained in document A/67/518. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, particularly to Mrs. Virginia Morris and her team for their dedication and tireless efforts in faithfully implementing the various activities outlined in the Programme of Assistance for 2012. At this juncture, Malaysia wishes to align its statement with that made by Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

2. As with others in this room, Malaysia cannot stress enough the importance of international law to peace and the global order. International law accords a normative framework for the actions of States. It contributes greatly to creating peace, enabling sustainable economic development and is also the building block for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is thus, no surprise that the UN Programme of Assistance has been gaining in popularity and importance across the world. This is evident in the increase in the number of users of the Audio Visual Library, which has more than threefold since 2011. The Programme of Assistance and particularly, the Audio Visual Library, has allowed people from all walks of life – practitioners and non-practitioners alike, to tap into the knowledge and experience of the application of international law throughout the years. Therefore, there is no doubt that the Programme has and will continue to grow in relevance to contribute to human

progress and greater governance.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia welcomes the various legal publications for the year 2012 and the maintenance of the websites related to various activities on law done by the Office of Legal Affairs. Malaysia also welcomes the successful convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme, which saw 19 fellowships awarded for this year. We hope that the Codification Division would be able to award 20 fellowships under the regular budget of the UN in 2013 as planned.

4. As for regional courses, we are heartened to note that a regional course was held in Addis Ababa from 6 February to 2 March this year. We also welcome the generous contribution of the African Union to the regional course. As for the Asia-Pacific region, we are glad to note that Thailand will host the regional course, which will take place in November this year. We hope that all regional courses, including that for Latin America and the Caribbean, would be able to be held for the year 2013. Not only are regional courses important for the participants to enhance their understanding of a broad range of subjects of international law, they are also important to encourage greater interaction; the sharing of experiences; and, the exchanging of ideas in various legal matters in the respective regional contexts.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia values and appreciates the various cost saving measures that were undertaken to ensure that the activities under the Programme continue. At the same time, we appreciate the voluntary contributions made for 2012. Nevertheless, we are equally, if not, more concerned of the budget crisis facing the Programme of Assistance as a whole. In this regard, Malaysia supports increased funding for the Programme, especially through an increase in the programme budget for the next and future bienniums, so as to ensure the continued effectiveness and future development of the Programme, especially for the regional courses and the viability of the Audiovisual Library, for the benefit of all.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.