

# **New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**



## **TeMāngai o Aotearoa**

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### **Sixth Committee**

#### **Agenda item 78**

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

**Statement on behalf of New Zealand  
by  
Ms Alice Revell  
Second Secretary/ Legal Adviser**

**24 October 2012**

Check against delivery

Mr Chair

New Zealand is pleased to speak today on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

The Programme of Assistance has the noble aim of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States through increasing States' knowledge of international law. This Committee is well aware of the benefits of promoting international law. The good work that the Programme of Assistance does in this regard is one of the cornerstones of the United Nations' efforts to promote international law.

Mr Chair

New Zealand is pleased to note that the **regional courses in international law** under the Programme of Assistance have been revitalised in recent years. The regional courses provide an invaluable opportunity for young lawyers in government foreign and justice ministries, the judiciary and law faculties of universities to receive high-quality training by leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of subjects in international law.

As an expression of its support for the rule of law and for the valuable work the Programme of Assistance undertakes, New Zealand was pleased to make a voluntary contributions towards the African regional course conducted in French, hosted by the Government of Ethiopia from 6 February to 2 March 2012, and the Asia-Pacific regional course which will be held from 12 to 30 November 2012, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr Chair

New Zealand welcomes the willingness of the Government of Ethiopia to host further regional courses for Africa, and notes that a course in English is scheduled for April 2013 if there are sufficient voluntary contributions. We also welcome the possibility of a course being conducted for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014. New Zealand is certain that such courses will be of significant benefit, both to those young lawyers fortunate enough to attend, and to our collective efforts to promote understanding of and respect for international law.

Mr Chair

The **Audiovisual Library of International Law** is another valuable resource maintained by the Programme of Assistance. Its Lecture Series covers virtually

every subject of international law, with over 250 lectures recorded by leading international law scholars and practitioners. So far it has been utilised by 450,000 people in 192 member States of the United Nations. New Zealand was pleased to support the Audiovisual Library through a voluntary contribution to its trust fund this year.

New Zealand hopes that the important activities of the Programme of Assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law will continue, and encourages other States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Programme.

Thank you Mr Chair.