



# PORTUGAL

## 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly

*Agenda Item 78*

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

***Statement by***

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by recalling that Portugal is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance. Our views follow closely those expressed by the UN Secretary-General in his latest report on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance, in particular in regard to the guidelines and recommendations enshrined therein.

Let me bring to mind that last years' Report underlined that the Programme, running now for over half a century, has played a key role in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law as well as established means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States.

Mr. Chairman,

We acknowledge that today, in a globalized era, International Law awareness is greater than ever before and the demand for training and access to sources of International Law is ever-increasing.

For this reason, we would like to emphasize that this Programme is crucial in promoting and providing for the study and research of International Law. Hence, we commend *The Hague Fellowship Programme* for providing comprehensive high quality training by leading scholars and practitioners, on a broad range of core subjects of International Law.

We note with appreciation that this initiative plays a key role in shaping up many of the future brilliant legal minds around the globe, particularly those originating from developing or emerging countries.

We believe that the teaching and study of core issues - such as the position of sovereignty and the sovereign State in contemporary international social relations, the universality and regionalization of International Law, fragmentation of International Law and overlapping of jurisdictions, recent developments in UN peacekeeping operations, right to self-determination or International Human Rights Law, among others – greatly contributes towards removing the underlying causes that could hinder international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards the dissemination of International Law, we would like to commend the good work being done by the Codification Division, responsible for conducting research, collecting legal materials, facilitating electronic research, and organizing regional programmes in International Law.

We encourage the Codification Division to keep considering options for revitalizing this significant training activity, including the possibility of identifying suitable locations for organizing these courses on a regular basis, particularly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, to the extent possible with the available resources.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law is indeed an important tool for the study and dissemination of International Law. We praise this initiative for providing online quality training at a global scale at relatively low cost, in response to the ever-increasing demand for International Law training for practitioners and other legal professionals worldwide.

We would also like to avail this opportunity to encourage the Treaty Section to continue its good work in providing technical assistance on the registration of treaties, depositary practice of the Secretary-General as well as final clauses.

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal believes there is still much work to be done within the framework of the Programme of Assistance and we cannot help worrying about the decrease of fellowships awarded in recent years.

Bearing this in mind, we would like to highlight that it is essential to make efforts to reach the potential beneficiaries of the Programme in all aspects deemed necessary, including with regard to language.

We trust that the international community, in particular the United Nations, will continuously pursue its best endeavors to implement a successful half-century Programme and assure its

deliverance, thus paying a noteworthy contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal strongly believes that is necessary to confer greater stability to this Programme of Assistance. Funding the Programme also from the UN budget would be an important step in that direction.

The resources needed by the Programme are relatively small. But its importance is enormous. The discourse on its relevant role in implementing the Rule of Law has to be met by serious commitment by Members States and the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

As a current member of the Advisory Committee, Portugal would like to reiterate its pledge regarding the Programme of Assistance and reaffirm that we will continue to contribute with our hard work to the promotion and dissemination of International Law.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.