

**Statement by Tania Steenkamp of the South African
Permanent Mission to the United Nations, in the Sixth
Committee of the General Assembly under the Agenda
Item “Report of the Secretary – General on the Programme
of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and
Wider Appreciation of International Law.”**

Chairperson,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on agenda item 79, the “Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”. We thank the Secretary-General for his report as well as for all his efforts in implementing the Programme of Assistance during 2012. As in previous years, we want to take this opportunity to express our support for the Programme of Assistance.

Chairperson,

The Programme of Assistance comprises many valuable elements and should be widely supported, also because, in my delegation’s view, the Programme of Assistance plays an important part in promoting the rule of law, a topic which has been spoken about by this delegation on a number of occasions. Therefore, we specifically welcome the scholarships that will be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries to attend the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague and regional courses in international

law in 2012 and 2013. We also commend the decision to authorize the Secretary-General to award a minimum of once scholarship in each of 2012 and 2013 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerashinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea and express our hope that the contributions to this fund will be sufficient to enable the Secretary-General to award more scholarships from this Fund to deserving candidates.

Chairperson,

My delegation commends the continued efforts of the Codification Division on the activities which contribute to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law.

We also note the important role played by the Audiovisual Library of International Law in the teaching and dissemination of international law. This valuable resource allows everyone, especially learners and practitioners from developing nations, an opportunity to benefit from having access to important sources of international law, including the writings of learned authors and judgments of international courts and tribunals. A resource such as this should be supported and we urge Member States who are able to contribute to the amazing initiative.

With regards to the distribution of UN publications, my delegation was pleased to notice that the United Nations is

continuing to distribute copies of United Nations legal publications to institutions in developing countries.

Chairperson,

Considering the importance of the Programme of Assistance, and the value it adds, especially for learners and practitioners from developing nations, we would propose that Member States consider innovative ways in which we can continue to support the Programme of Assistance to at least continue with its current programmes and, where possible, expand on them. One possibility could be to introduce assessed contributions from Member States. My government will continue to support the efforts of the Programme of Assistance to the full extent of its national abilities.

I thank you.