



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the
United Nations**

on behalf of

the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at

**The Sixth Committee of the
68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

on

**Agenda Item 80 "UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and wider Appreciation of International Law "**

New York, 16 October 2013

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN attaches great importance to the United Nations' efforts to promote international law through the work of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, in particular the Codification Division. Increasing understanding and wider appreciation of international law is vital for promoting interactions between States, strengthening world's peace and security and furthering the rule of law at international and national levels. It is also imperative for assisting Members States in terms of capacity building in legal matters.

ASEAN recognizes that the legal publications and resources of international law as well as the revitalization of the International Law Fellowship Programme and regional courses are beneficial for every Member State. ASEAN highly thanks those States and other donors for making significant voluntary contributions to the UN Programme of Assistance either by providing financial resources and other contributions over the past years.

ASEAN welcomes the use of modern technology, in particular the establishment of Audiovisual Library, which is important and useful resource for learners, researchers and practitioners in developing and developed nations. The publications and resources of international law, with the help of this new technology, provide an easy access to a wide range of international legal resources. We hope that further expansion of Audiovisual Library will be possible in the years ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

During our general debate on agenda item 85 "the rule of law at international and national levels" at the Sixth Committee, all delegates clearly expressed their views that the rule of law plays a critical role in maintaining international peace and security, and in addressing issues of global concerns and challenges. Strengthening and promoting the rule of

law is our common goal, responsibility and aspiration of all UN Member States to fulfil as described in the UN Charter, and in international law as well as the Declaration of the Rule of Law at international and national levels adopted last year. Therefore, ASEAN sees great value in disseminating and sharing information on international law through the UN Office of Legal Affairs, particularly through the organization of the regional courses in international law, which is an excellent platform to achieve such commitments.

ASEAN is of view that organization of regional courses in international law in different regions of the world is the main component of the UN Programme of Assistance, as it provides not only an excellent opportunity for young lawyers and professionals in government, judiciary and universities to receive high-quality training given by leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of subjects in international law, but also constitutes an essential forum for participants to share their thoughts and experiences on legal issues in different regional contexts. It is therefore regrettable that due to the lack of financial support, the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, which was scheduled to take place in November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand, had to be cancelled. In this regard, ASEAN calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to consider making voluntary contributions to the Programme to make this important international law training for Asia-Pacific region possible in 2014-2015.

ASEAN notes with concern the precarious financial situation the UN Programme of Assistance is in. Therefore, in order to ensure funding for the continued Programme in the future, ASEAN is of the view that the whole budget for the regional courses and the viability of the Audiovisual Library should be made available directly from the UN regular budget, and voluntary contributions from UN Member States should be complementary. In this connection, we recall operative paragraph 7 of GA resolution A/67/91, which requests the Secretary General to provide to the Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 the resources necessary for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme, in particular the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis and viability of the UN Audiovisual Library of International law. We hope that this request would be heeded.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, ASEAN is in the process of developing a rule-based, people-oriented community by 2015. The ASEAN Member States are fully committed to support the UN Programme of Assistance as a key element to promote the rule of law activities of the United Nations. We hope that these important activities under the UN Programme of Assistance will be sustained.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.