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**STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY  
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 78  
“UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR  
THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER  
APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW”**

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*Check against delivery*

## **Mr Chairman**

My delegation has the honour to deliver this statement speaking on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, the African Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, which provides a detailed account of activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Assistance. As you may recall, the United Nations Programme of Assistance was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session through Resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965 to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. This is one of the reasons why the African Group is of the view that this Programme is for a good cause hence the Group's full support for its funding from the regular budget of the United Nations.

## **Mr Chairman**

The African Group supports and appreciates the work of the UN Programme of Assistance, particularly as it relates to the development of international law in Africa. The African Institute of International Law, which is dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, has recently been established with the objectives to work on progressive development of international law in Africa, codification of international law in Africa, contribute to the objectives and principles of the African Union, and work on the revision of treaties in Africa. It should further be noted in this regard that the African Union took a decision at the May 2013 Summit that African States should support proper funding of the Programme of Assistance including, if necessary, through the regular budget of the UN. It is, *inter alia*, for this reason that the African Group supports the proper funding of the Programme of Assistance through the regular budget of the United Nations.

## **Mr Chairman**

The African Group commends the continued efforts of the Codification Division on the activities which contribute to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law. The Codification Division is responsible for organizing regional courses in international law. These regional courses provide training by leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core subjects of international law as well as specific subjects of particular interest to developing countries in a given region. The value of the regional courses is incalculable. The African Group notes with concern that this year, the Regional course in

International Law for Asia-Pacific, had to be cancelled due to lack of funds. The Group is also concerned that the regional course for Latin America and the Caribbean, that is supposed to take place in 2014, has not taken place and there are no funds for a second course in that region. It is in this context, that the African Group would like to express its appreciation to all member states that have made voluntary contributions, in particular, Australia for its generous voluntary contribution which enabled the regional course for Africa to be held in 2014.

**In conclusion, Mr Chairman**

The African Group is of the view that the Sixth Committee you are chairing and the General Assembly have to deal with this matter of the funding of the Programme of Assistance head-on and build on the Advisory Committee's recommendations. We must see to it that these recommendations are approved. The African Group will work together with other regional groups and member states with a view to ensuring that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are effectively implemented and as such, regular budgetary funding is provided for the Programme of Assistance. The African Group commends the Advisory Committee and its members for the job well done. We know it was not easy to come up with the aforementioned recommendations. To the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Ambassador Ken Kanda, who happens to be one of our own, the son of the soil from Africa, Ghana, the African Group expresses its appreciation for his leadership.

**I thank you for your attention.**