



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

317 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. Tel: (212) 750 0039, www.un.int/lao

Statement

by

H.E. Dr. Khiane PHANSOURIVONG,

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations
on behalf of**

the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at

the Sixth Committee of the

69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on

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

(Agenda item: 77)

New York, 17 October 2014

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour 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, Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

ASEAN attaches great importance to the promotion of international law and welcomes the report of the UN Secretary General concerning this issue. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division for their efforts in implementing activities under the United Nations Programme of Assistance as well as their dedication, professionalism and innovation in the assistance necessary for strengthening the capacity in legal matters despite the budgetary constraints that the Office is currently facing.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is of the view that the UN Programme of Assistance has been instrumental in the promotion of a wider appreciation of international law among Member States. This is indeed important since a better understanding of international law will assist in promoting friendly relations and cooperation among states, as well as understanding the rules of interactions between states that will ultimately further maintain global peace and security. For this reason, the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance has significantly contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security and the development and enhancement of human rights protection at national, regional and international levels.

ASEAN appreciates the International Law Fellowship Programme which provides the most comprehensive international law training for lawyers from developing countries and emerging economies. Furthermore, the Programme helps in refining their understanding of the rights and obligations of international law. ASEAN welcomes the International Law Fellowship Programme which will be held in the Hague, Netherland, on 22-31 July 2015. In addition, ASEAN also note with appreciation the UN Secretary-General unrelenting effort on increasing international law training and disseminating activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance.

ASEAN welcomes the application of advanced technology, in particular, the use of Audiovisual Library as a tool to disseminate information as well as a collection of information accessible to the public, especially learners, researchers and practitioners from developing and developed countries. We see this tool as the most cost-effective and widely accessible and we hope that it will be expanded in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

The organization of regional courses in international law in different regions of the world is the main component of the UN Programme of Assistance. The courses will not only help participants to enhance their understanding of a wider range of international law, but also help to create opportunities for them to interact, share experience and exchange ideas on various legal matters from their respective regions. ASEAN, therefore, welcomes the regional courses on international law planned to be organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2015. At the same time, we hope that the previously cancelled regional courses in international law will also be reorganized in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, ASEAN calls on Member States and other stakeholders to consider making voluntary contributions to the Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN notes with concern the precarious financial situation of the UN Programme of Assistance. Therefore, to ensure adequate funding for the Programme in the future, ASEAN reiterates that the whole budget for the regional courses and the viability of the Audiovisual Library should be made available directly from the regular UN budget, as well as voluntary contributions from UN Member States.

Consequently, we recall operative paragraph 7 of GA resolution A/68/110, which requests that the Secretary-General provide to the Programme a budget for the biennium 2014-2015 on the resources necessary for the Programme of Assistance. This is to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the UN Audiovisual Library of International law. ASEAN, therefore, hopes that its request will be granted.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I would like to say that ASEAN firmly believes that a rule-based international community will create an environment that is more conducive to the maintenance and promotion of peace, development and protection of human rights. ASEAN is also fully committed to supporting the UN Programme of Assistance and hopes that the activities carried out by the UN Programme of Assistance will be continued.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.