



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO**

**THE UN**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UNGA**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 77**

**‘UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE**

**TEACHING, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION**

**OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ’**

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**NEW YORK**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me, at the outset, to associate my delegation with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

My delegation recognizes that the Programme of Assistance contributes greatly for the promotion of a better knowledge of the concept of international law. The firm understanding and dissemination of international law is a key component in strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States, as well as the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels. Hence, it is a matter of necessity not that of choice to intensify our commitments to the implementation of the Program.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is regrettable to witness that the Programme of Assistance is continuously challenged by lack of sufficient funding, to the extent that it is only possible to implement some parts of the Programme. We would like to reiterate the conclusion of the Advisory Committee that voluntarily contributions have not proved to be a sustainable method for funding the activities under the Programme of Assistance; and echo its recommendation that there is a need to provide more reliable funding for all its activities.

We would firmly support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee that funding for the Programme of Assistance for the year 2015 be revisited under the program budget for biennium 2014-2015, as well as additional resources be provided to the Programme of Assistance under the proposed budget for biennium 2016-2017. We are of the view that the implementation of these recommendations will ensure the sustainability of the Programme.

My delegation takes this opportunity to commend the Chair of the Advisory Committee, as well as all its Members, for the job well done. We also wish to commend the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, specially Ms. Virginia Morris, for their efforts in implementing the activities under the Programme of Assistance despite the challenges it is facing with regard to funding.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We call upon the United Nations to organize Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis. It is our firm believe that such a course would give ample opportunity for lawyers from developing and least developed countries to grasp current developments in international law and promote cooperation among Member States.

Ethiopia has demonstrated its commitment to support the efforts of the United Nations by hosting the first, second, third and fourth United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for the African Region, which were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We will continue to host the Regional Course and collaborate with the United Nations in this regard. At this point in time, we would like to express our appreciation for all member states that made voluntary contributions, particularly Australia whose generous voluntary contribution enabled the regional course for Africa to be held in 2014.

African lawyers, diplomats and government employees' from various African countries including lecturers from African universities were able to interact with renowned practitioners and scholars and discuss various issues in fields of international law, with special emphasis on the African Continent.

My delegation would call upon the Codification Division to strengthen its activities in collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Institute of International Law, the African Law Commission and African Universities in order to strengthen the Regional Course for Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation would like to express, once again, Ethiopia's readiness to host the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for the African Region on a regular basis. We would like to reiterate our firm commitment to strengthen the effectiveness and further development of the African Regional courses in international law. We rely on the continued support of the United Nations and Member States to realize the purpose and objectives of the African Regional course.

**Thank You!**