

NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT

**PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION
AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Chair

New Zealand strongly supports the Programme of Assistance's work.

We see the Programme as a key effort by the United Nations to promote international law and strengthen the rule of law. As such this Programme makes an important contribution to international peace and security.

Chair

We consider that the regional courses, in particular, provide an invaluable opportunity for young lawyers to not only receive high-quality training, but to do so alongside other lawyers from their region.

A number of New Zealand academics and practitioners have had the privilege to teach at these courses and the singular experience has been that courses provide a distinct and truly valuable learning environment.

In this context, we would like to join others in recognising the willingness of Ethiopia, Thailand and Uruguay to host these regional courses, and to express our concern that despite this willingness by these host countries, that the courses for the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean were unable to go ahead in 2014.

Chair

As an expression of its support for the rule of law and for the valuable work the Programme of Assistance undertakes, New Zealand has consistently contributed to the Programme for numerous years.

We recognise however that the overall financial situation faced by the Programme remains of great concern.

We thank the Advisory Committee for its report on this, and the serious deliberations it has undertaken over the last week on this matter. It is clear that voluntary contributions have not proven adequate and we are hopeful that given the agreement in this room regarding the importance of the Programme that we will find a solution.

As we work through the options for more reliable funding streams, let us continue to show our support for this Programme. The important activities of the Programme of Assistance need our support and, alongside our broader efforts, we encourage States to consider voluntary contributions to the Programme. It is in this vein, that New Zealand is pleased to announce that we will make an additional voluntary contribution this year to both the regional courses and the audiovisual library.

Thank you Chair.