



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

**Statement by John Arbogast, Counselor for Legal Affairs
69th Session of the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching,
Study and Wider Appreciation of International Law
Agenda Item 77**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States thanks the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

The United States is pleased to participate on the Advisory Committee on this United Nations Program of Assistance which, we might note, grappled as never before with funding issues facing the Program in its annual meeting this week and last. We are deeply appreciative to Ambassador Kanda for his stewardship of the Advisory Committee in that regard, and regret that this year's session was the last that he will be chairing. Thank you, Ambassador Kanda.

The Program of Assistance, which was established in 1965, continues to make a great contribution to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law, and has clearly earned continuing, strong support.

Particularly in the context of a heightened focus on the rule of law, it is clear that knowledge of international law is a key component to furthering the rule of law at the national and international levels. Through a firm understanding of international law, new generations of lawyers, judges and diplomats gain a deeper understanding of the complex instruments that govern so many aspects of this interconnected world. Thus, the program of assistance is one of many important tools to strengthen the rule of law, person by person, country by country, region by region.

The United States thanks the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division in particular for its efforts in implementing the Program of Assistance, as well as the other entities at the United Nations that further the wider appreciation of international law. We very much appreciate the creative ways in which the Codification Division has been able to keep important programs going in the face of limited resources, and we encourage it to continue those most commendable efforts to secure voluntary contributions to supplement program budget resources. There is no question that the regional courses in international law, the audiovisual library and other Program of Assistance activities are valuable and well-run, and worthy of support. We believe it is important that this very excellent Program thrives for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.