



**STATEMENT**

by

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**ON  
AGENDA ITEM 82 "THE UNITED NATIONS  
PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING,  
STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER  
APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"**

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**United Nations, New York  
October 23, 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

We wish to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report contained in document A/70/423 which provides useful information on the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, as well guidelines and recommendations for implementation of the Programme for the 2016-2017 biennium.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Ghana for her dedication and excellent leadership as Chair of the Advisory Committee, as well the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its efforts in ensuring that some of the activities under the Programme of Assistance were implemented despite limited financial resources and insufficient voluntary contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important Programme, we wish to recognize its significant contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all UN Member States, legal systems and regions of the world. CARICOM, therefore, emphasizes the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in the report of the Secretary General in document A/70/423.

CARICOM further underscores the critical importance of the Programme of Assistance in fostering a better understanding and appreciation of international law through its regional law courses and seminars, law fellowship programmes, and the dissemination of legal publications and information through the internet and other electronic sources. In this regard, we advance that a better understanding of international law is fundamental to promoting international peace and security, the friendly relations and cooperation among States, and advancing the rule of law at both the national and international levels.

We, therefore, reiterate our continued support for the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in implementing the activities under the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM remains deeply concerned that, for another consecutive year, the Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2015 were cancelled due to insufficient funding. This situation is particularly disconcerting, as the provisions of resolutions 66/97, 67/91, 68/110 and 69/117, which requested the Secretary-General to provide resources from the regular budget for these activities under the Programme of Assistance, have not been implemented.

Furthermore, desktop publishing has also been discontinued by the Codification Division since 2014 due to inadequate resources. In this regard, we emphasize the need for the necessary resources to be provided to resume desktop publishing, given its role in expediting the issuance of legal publications and making them available to the legal community.

Accordingly, we fully endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for funding to be provided from the regular budget for the 2016-2017 biennium for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Audiovisual Library of International Law. We also support the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to submit under the programme budget for the 2016-2017 biennium, a proposal for the necessary funding to be provided for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to ensure its continued effectiveness and development, we urge all Member States, interested organizations and institutions, and individuals to make voluntary contributions towards the activities under the Programme of Assistance, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 69/117. In this regard, we commend those States that have made voluntary contributions towards this Programme.

In closing, CARICOM reaffirms its full support for all the activities under the Programme of Assistance and endorses the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary General to strengthen and revitalize the Programme in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.