



Statement

by

Lebanon

**at the
Sixth Committee**

**Item 82: "UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law"**

New York, October 26, 2015

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 1001***

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We welcome the Secretary-General's report on the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which provides us with comprehensive information on the activities of the Programme for this year and for the biennium 2016-2017.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Chair of the Advisory Committee, H.E. Ambassador POBEE.

We also wish to express our deep gratitude to the Codification Division, and in particular Mrs. Morris and her team, as well as the Office of Legal Affairs, for their outstanding dedication to the UN Programme and their tireless efforts in the implementation of its activities.

Mr. Chair,

At a time when the international community is reaffirming its commitment to the promotion and respect of international law, when international norms are proliferating and becoming more detailed and specific, we can only deplore the financial constraints facing a UN Programme that aims, *inter alia*, at training and increasing the level of expertise of legal officers, lawyers and jurists. Suffice to mention the Audiovisual Library, an invaluable and accessible source of knowledge for millions of individuals around the world. Further, my delegation stressed on, a few days ago, during the debate on the *role of multilateral treaty processes in advancing the Rule of Law*, the importance of the UN Programme of assistance, as a central tool to reinforcing the rule of law, as it can contribute to fill the gaps between states with limited capacities and other states benefiting from larger resources.

Such a training programme is therefore essential and we are of the view that its viability should be ensured through the funding of the regular budget of the UN.

Mr. Chair,

As it has already been recalled many times, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Programme, which is a testament to its significance. This year is also of particular relevance for my country and other states, as few weeks from now will be held the first International law seminar for Arab States in Cairo.

We cannot but reiterate our appreciation to those who have worked relentlessly to enable this seminar to take place, in particular the members of the codification division, the host country Egypt and the League of Arab States. We are confident that this seminar will be a success, and we hope it will augur well for the development of a regular and full-fledged UN training programme for Arab States.