



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY
MR. SHAHARUDDIN ONN
DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 82:

**“UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW”**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE
70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his report A/70/423 and also to the Codification Division for their commitment in ensuring the successful implementation of the various courses and programmes under the Programme of Assistance.

3. We view international law as the legal bedrock governing and regulating inter-State relations. While the Programme of Assistance may not take the centre stage and perhaps not as newsworthy as compared to the other more pressing and exciting issues deliberated here at the United Nations Headquarters, it is without a doubt that the Programme of Assistance has contributed significantly to and enhanced the

understanding of international law among practitioners and also for those whose work are related to international law.

4. It is only through the better understanding and appreciation of international law among and between States could we ensure its proper implementation and application. This creates an environment conducive for the maintenance of international peace and security, which in turn allows for the fulfilment and enjoyment of rights and achievement of development.

5. It is within this context that we should never under-rate or diminish the importance and significance of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. It is partly through the promotion of such efforts that there could be a better understanding of the rights and obligations of States.

6. We are indeed very encouraged by the overwhelming response to the various courses organised under the auspices of the Programmes of Assistance such as the International Law Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in International Law. We are nevertheless cognisant of the financial constraints and resource limitations faced by the United Nations to faithfully implement such programmes as scheduled. In this regard, perhaps more innovative ways may need to be considered and explored to ensure the sustainability of such programmes.

7. Participation or enrolment in the courses offered under the Programme of Assistance is undoubtedly highly sought after. In reality, only a privileged few are able to attend the courses since its introduction. If we are indeed true in our commitment to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, we should perhaps strive to ensure that the study of international law should be made available accessible to a wider audience inasmuch as it is possible. Promoting the study and appreciation of international law at the national level could be a worthy consideration. Linkages could perhaps, in this regard, be established with institutions of higher learning and bar associations at the national level.

8. We also note the concern as reflected in the report regarding access to the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, in that there is an apparent lack of awareness among users or potential users in developing countries regarding this resource. We further welcome the intention of the Codification Division of exploring the possibility of making the resources or lectures in the Lecture Series available in other formats to enhance awareness and accessibility. We are, in this regard, of the view that it may be beneficial if direct contact or linkages could be established with the institutions of higher learning or national bar associations in developing countries to promote awareness of this important and invaluable resource.

9. While it is undeniable that the Programme of Assistance plays an important role in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, we are of the view that new approaches should perhaps be explored and considered to ensure that the resources and the courses offered by the Programme of Assistance are truly accessible to and within reach for a wider audience.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.