



# New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

## UNGA 70: Sixth Committee

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,  
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

### **New Zealand statement**

Delivered by Shannon Tau  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Mr/Madam Chair,

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Programme of Assistance and New Zealand takes this opportunity to reiterate its strong support for the work of the Programme.

In New Zealand's view, the Programme of Assistance is a key part of this organisation's contribution to international peace and security through strengthening the rule of law. The regional courses are a particular highlight, providing high-quality training in international and regional legal issues of interest. Importantly, those legal officers that attend have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of international law alongside their colleagues from the region. New Zealand academics and practitioners have had the privilege of teaching at these courses.

We join others in recognising the continuing willingness of Ethiopia, Thailand and Uruguay to host these regional courses, including the conclusion of host country agreements. We also express thanks to those host countries that provide conference and venue services as in kind contributions to the Programme, and are encouraged by the inclusion of Costa Rica as a possible host as well. New Zealand welcomes the development of the International Law Seminar for Arab States, and is grateful for Egypt's willingness to host this course next month. We also note with appreciation the continued efforts to achieve equitable geographical representation of the programme.

Mr/Madam Chair,

We are pleased that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has recommended in this year's report that the Programme of Assistance secure regular budget funding in this biennium of just over \$1.8 million.

As this Committee is aware, voluntary contributions have proved unsustainable as the primary source of support for the Programme. Due to the strained financial situations there has not been a course in Latin America since 2004 and there has not been a course in Asia since 2012. We hope the bid for regular budget funding this biennium is successful as it would allow the valuable regional courses to proceed in 2016 as planned.

Alongside the hoped for regular budget funding, States' support for the important activities of the Programme remains important. We therefore continue to encourage States to consider voluntary contributions to the Programme to

supplement what is sought from the regular budget. In that light, and in recognising the valuable work the Programme of Assistance undertakes, and the importance New Zealand places on strengthening the rule of law, New Zealand has contributed to the Programme for a number of years, including contributions this year to the regional courses and work of the Audiovisual Library. We hope that the Programme of Assistance will be able to continue its valuable work into the future.

Thank you.