



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**DR. TOPE ADE ELIAS-FATILE,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ON**

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

**AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

**MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2015**

*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**Mr. Chairman**

Nigeria is grateful to the Secretary-General for his report before us on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We align with the earlier statement made by the Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of G77 and China.

2. It is delightful to note that this programme has made great impact on students and practitioners of international Law throughout the World, especially, in developing countries. By this Programme, which was established fifty years ago (since 1965), many generations of state lawyers have been trained and they have benefitted immensely from the regional courses in international law, the international fellowships, the audiovisual library and publications.

**Mr. Chairman**

3. Nigeria is pleased to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on this Programme. We are grateful to Ghana - the chair of the Committee and other members of the Committee for their commitment. We also commend the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division for its relentless efforts on the implementation of the programme.

4. Nevertheless, the concern that we have consistently joined others to express over the years is on the need to have predictable means of funding this laudable programme. We would continue to underline the fact that voluntary contributions can never be sufficient to sustain the programme. As a result of the poor funding, in 2014 and 2015, there were no Regional courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. Resulting from lack of fund still, the regional courses for Asia-Pacific, Latin-America and the Caribbean were not arranged while the Amerasinghe Fellowship in 2014 was not granted due to lack of resources. Meanwhile, there is no sufficient funding for the 2016 award.

5. Consequently, Nigeria supports the earlier proposal of the Permanent Representative of South Africa (contained in the G77 statement he read) on the need to include the regional courses, with at least 20 fellowships a year and the Audiovisual Library, in the Regular Budget of the UN. Should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year, we also support the proposal for the funding of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea through regular budget.

**Mr. Chairman**

6. We applaud Member States for adopting the General Assembly resolution 69/117 last year, by which some activities of the Programme would be funded through the regular budget of the organization. In particular, the resolution requested the Secretary-General to include the required resources for the three regional courses each year in the Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. We observed that the resources have been included in the proposed Programme budget. We also commend the Advisory Committee for the recommendations to implement the decisions taken last year and we urge Member States to consider these recommendations for implementation.

7. The idea of having appropriate budgetary allocation for the three regional courses must be sustained. By this, it would be possible to strengthen international law programme and its training courses around the world while the Audiovisual Library of International Law would continue to receive its desired attention.

**Mr. Chairman**

8. We assure you of our continuous support for the implementation of this programme.

**I thank you.**