

# GHANA



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## **STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED**

*BY*

**HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARTHA A.A. POBEE**

**ON THE AGENDA ITEM 82 ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF  
ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING STUDY DISSEMINATION AND WIDER  
APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

**23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to deliver this statement in my capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law and on behalf of my country. Ghana attaches great importance to its role in the Advisory Committee and to the Programme of Assistance and especially as we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance, we pay tribute to the memory of Emmanuel Dadzie, an illustrious son of Ghana who fifty years ago foresaw the need for a deeper knowledge and understanding of International Law and worked tirelessly together with other delegations in establishing this programme.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Over the years, in our efforts to institutionalise and to meet the growing demand for knowledge in International Law, especially in developing countries, it has become necessary to secure regular and sustainable funding for this programme and to this end, my delegation wishes to acknowledge the work and efforts that have been put into this process by several delegations. These efforts have culminated in this notable achievement of having the funding for the regional courses and the audio-visual library of International Law included in the proposed budget of the Secretary General.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This morning I have the honour of introducing the outcome of the deliberations of the Fiftieth Session of the Advisory Committee, which was held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015. In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to paragraphs 67 to 74 of the report of the Secretary-General under consideration.

In paragraph 67, the Advisory Committee commended the Codification Division on its efforts to strengthen and expand the teaching and dissemination of International Law under the Programme of Assistance.

In paragraph 68, the Advisory Committee noted with appreciation, the immense contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the legal profession around the world over the past half century and emphasized the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations of lawyers.

In paragraph 69, the Advisory Committee recommended that the draft resolution on this agenda item be adopted during International Law Week to highlight the important contribution of the Programme to international law on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. In this regard, I wish to inform you of my delegation's intention to circulate a zero draft resolution following the debate on this item and to convene informal consultations on the draft early next week. I need not emphasize that we must proceed efficiently if we wish to achieve the goal of adopting the draft resolution during the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> November. I trust that I can count on the cooperation of all delegations to this end.

In the same paragraph 69, the Advisory Committee also noted with appreciation the proposals of the Codification Division to mark the Fiftieth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance.

In paragraph 70, the Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the Report.

In paragraph 71, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to conduct the International Law Fellowship Programme and the three Regional Courses in 2016 and in 2017 with a minimum of 20 fellowships financed by provisions in the regular budget for the next biennium. In this paragraph, the Advisory Committee also recommended the inclusion of additional self-funded participants in the Regional Courses as well as fellowship participants funded by voluntary contributions. The Advisory Committee also recommended the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audio-visual Library to be funded by provisions in the regular budget and, when necessary, through voluntary contributions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As you know, these resources have been included by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget for the next biennium pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 69/117. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has recommended approval of this proposed funding.

In paragraph 72, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2016 and in 2017 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

In paragraph 74, the Advisory Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit, under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, for the General Assembly's consideration, a proposal for the necessary funding for this fellowship, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Fifty years down the road and on the commemoration of the Seventieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, we recognise that the issue of regular funding for this programme has been a prolonged and longstanding matter but we are pleased with the consensus we have built, particularly amongst the members of the Advisory Committee and indeed the entire membership of the Sixth Committee. We encourage delegations to build on this going forward, especially in the Fifth committee, which will be crucial to attaining our desired goal. This consensus is of utmost importance at this stage so as not to jeopardise what we have already achieved.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Advisory Committee for their diligence and continuous support towards attaining our shared goals. We applaud the Codification Division, particularly Ms Virginia Morris and her team for their dedication to this programme over the years, as well as the entire Secretariat for their continuous assistance.

I Thank You.