



Statement

on

behalf of the African Group

by

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in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

under Agenda Item 77

**“United Nations Programme of Assistance for the
Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of
International Law”**

17 October 2016

Mr Chairman

My delegation, once again, has the honour to deliver this statement speaking on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Thailand speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda item titled "United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law". As you may recall, the United Nations Programme of Assistance was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session through Resolution 2099 of 20 December 1965 to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

Mr Chairman

In the performance of the functions entrusted to him by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is assisted by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, the members of which are appointed by the Assembly. At its seventieth session, the General Assembly approved the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified therein in 2016 and 2017. It requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2016 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years.

Mr Chairman

The United Nations was founded with the conviction that it is international law that rules the relations among States. For a world order based on the rule of law, we need to study, understand, teach and disseminate knowledge of international law. This is the main purpose of this Programme and it has trained generations of state lawyers. We hope that Member States, like the members of the African Group, remain committed to these objectives and to taking the necessary steps to ensure the continuation of the Programme of Assistance. Our resolve has to be unequivocal. The Group urges all member states to join efforts in ensuring that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are

effectively implemented and that therefore regular budgetary funding is provided for the Programme of Assistance for the benefit of developing and developed countries alike. The Group is ready to work with all Member States to make sure that this happens.

Mr Chairman

The African Group supports the work of the UN Programme of Assistance, particularly as it relates to the development of international law in Africa. It should be noted that the African Union contributes to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the lectures at the African Union. The African Institute of International Law, which is dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, has recently been established with the objectives to work on progressive development of international law in Africa, codification of international law in Africa, contribute to the objectives and principles of the African Union, and work on the revision of treaties in Africa. It should further be noted in this regard that the AU took a decision at the May 2013 Summit that African States should support proper funding of the Programme of Assistance including, if necessary, through the regular budget of the UN. It is, *inter alia*, for this reason that the African Group supports the proper funding of the Programme of Assistance through the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman

Allow me to recognize, on behalf of the Group, the Secretariat, both the Codification Division – in particular Ms Virginia Morris and her team- and the Division for Oceans and the Law of the Sea, all Member States who have made contributions to the Programme, the lecturers who contribute to the regional courses and to the Audiovisual Library, and the delegation of Ghana for its clear leadership and its tireless efforts at the Advisory Committee as the Chair.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman

Let us then renew our commitment to international law through the capacity-building enshrined in the Programme of Assistance.

I thank you for your attention.