



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

Mr. Eric Chaboureau

First Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

at the General Assembly Sixth Committee

on

Item 77

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

United Nations

New York

14 October 2016

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We renew our support to the Ambassador of Ghana as the Chair of the advisory Committee, and we express our gratitude to Ghana for its longstanding and active leadership of the Committee.

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

We reiterate our strong support for the Programme of Assistance and we commend its effective contribution to the Rule of Law, in particular by addressing the need for International Law training and dissemination of legal knowledge and material in benefit of all countries.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary General, which covers both the implementation of the Programme in 2016 and the activities planned for 2017. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, for its efforts to strengthen and revitalize its activities under the Programme of Assistance in order to meet the changing needs of the international legal community in the 21st century.

The establishment and continuous expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law is an especially significant achievement, offering easy access to a vast range of legal resources, free of charge, and in several languages. We are pleased to note the use of modern technology for this purpose. The Audio-visual Library continues to be an important resource for the legal community, including students, international law practitioners and even historians and we encourage continued attention by the Codification Division to this project.

Furthermore, we note with appreciation that the Codification Division continued to disseminate legal publications and information through the Internet, and that it is currently preparing a handbook on International Law, both in English and in French, containing a collection of legal materials for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries.

We note that the Codification Division organised a Regional Course for Africa in Ethiopia from 1 to 26 February 2016, for Latin America and the Caribbean in Uruguay from 4 to 29 April 2016 and an International Law Seminar for Arab States in Egypt from 15 to 19 November 2015 and that a Regional Course for Asia-Pacific will take place in Bangkok from 7 November to 2 December 2016.

We also note with appreciation the first International Law Seminar for African Universities which was held in Ghana from 15 to 26 August 2016 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international Law.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea to the wider appreciation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea and the work of DOALOS in this regard.

We commend States that have provided voluntary contributions to the Programme to date, and encourage all States to consider making more frequent or increasing such contributions in the future in order to sustain the projected regional courses and the Audiovisual Library of International Law, as well as Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

We welcome the Office of Legal Affairs' continued commitment to the Programme, including the provision of resources from within its budget, noting with satisfaction that those resources for the biennium 2016-2017 have increased substantially against the previous budgets.

We thank once again the Advisory Committee for its work and we note the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General.

I thank you.