



MYANMAR

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**Statement
by
Mr. Myat Nyi Nyi Win
Assistant Director and Adviser of the Myanmar Delegation**

**On Agenda Item 77
“United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”**

**Before the Sixth Committee of the
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 17 October 2016)**

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Mr. Chairman,

As I am taking the floor for the first time, may I join others by congratulating you for your appointment as the chair of the committee. Myanmar aligns itself with the statements made by distinguished representatives of Thailand and Cambodia on behalf of Group of 77 and China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past 50 years, the Programme of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law has contributed many countries towards better knowledge and understanding of international law as a mean of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations among states. The various training courses conducted by the Programme of Assistance have provided the foundation to enhance knowledge of international law for the countries concerned. In addition, Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship should be continued in providing better knowledge of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to government officials as well as research fellows involved in maritime law. Thus, we hope mobilizing of fund for the 2017 fellowship award will be sufficient.

Mr. Chairman,

Peaceful settlement of dispute is the basic foundation to building peace, stability and prosperity among nations. In the domestic context, as a nation trying to emerge from a bitter experience of decades-long internal strife and armed conflicts, Myanmar believes in resolution of all these problems by peaceful means of negotiations. The Government is therefore, striving to establish nation-wide peace, national reconciliation and rule of law in the country. Peace is prerequisite for development and sustaining democracy. Rule

of law is the foundation to strengthen peace, stability and socio-economic development of the people.

Bearing this in mind, we are promoting and upgrading law institutions with increasing number of judicial related training programmes conducted throughout the country to ensure rule of law reaches every corner of the nation.

At the international level, we have been able to complete the maritime boundary demarcation process peacefully with Bangladesh under the purview of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. This was an important milestone in showcasing effectiveness of international law and is a valuable example not only for the concerned countries but for all of us in indicating the importance and relevancy of international law in solving differences peacefully.

Mr.Chairman,

As a developing young democracy, Myanmar's development, peace and stability are heavily depended upon our youth. Laying foundation of legal knowledge and promoting a wider awareness of international law among the youth will contribute to strengthening rule of law in the country. Myanmar was not been able to make good use of the opportunities rendered by the Programme of Assistance in the past. Therefore, we would like to be considered as a priority recipient of the Programme of Assistance in the coming years.

At the same time, we share the concern of many delegations on the shortage of fund to the Programme of Assistance, which could lead to discontinuation of several useful programmes. We concur that voluntary contribution alone is not a sustainable method for funding the Programme of Assistance. In this regard, we would like to join other Member States in calling for the Programme of Assistance to be funded under regular budget. Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for their efforts in ensuring the successful implementation of the Programme of Assistance, despite the budget and logistical constraints. Likewise, Myanmar welcomes the outreach activities of the United Nations to secure further support to the Programme of Assistance.

We are also looking forward to the convening of regional Course on International Law for Asia-Pacific to be held in Bangkok from 7th November to 2nd December 2016 after being cancelled for two consecutive years owing to

insufficient fund. We also express our appreciation to those member states that have provided voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance.

Mr.Chairman,

In closing, I would like to reiterate the importance of this useful Programme of Assistance and our support for the continuation and expansion of the programme, which have benefitted many developing countries intheir effort to laying foundation to enhance knowledge of international law.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.