



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
NEW YORK**

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**

FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2016

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is grateful to the General Assembly for appointing Nigeria as a member of the Advisory Committee, (comprising 25 Member States), on the Programme of Assistance for a period of four years, beginning from 1st January 2016. We like to commend the good work of the delegation of Ghana in steering the affairs of the Committee since the inception. Similarly, we are grateful to the Secretary-General for his report tabled for consideration on this agenda item.

2. Nigeria recognizes the Programme of Assistance as one of many tools that assist in providing a deeper understanding of the complex issues existing in our interconnected world. For this reason, we shall continue to support efforts that are directed towards sustaining the laudable Programme. In this connection, we support the additional funding for the Programme that was included in the UN Programme Budget for the current biennium and we urge that the funding for the Programme should be included in the proposed programme budget for the next and future bienniums. In addition, we like to express appreciation to the countries that hosted the training courses in 2016 and to Chile for agreeing to host the Regional Course in 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Programme of Assistance continues to make great strides and create positive impacts on students and practitioners of international Law throughout the World. My delegation commends the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division in particular for its relentless efforts in the implementation of the Programme. However, we note with concern that the Division is still dependent on voluntary contributions to recruit temporary staff to perform functions relating to the training courses and desktop publishing. For this reason, it is necessary to consider and adopt predictable source(s) of income to address this staffing situation given the uncertainty of voluntary contributions.

4. Furthermore, we note that the Division has not been able to issue any of its legal publications since it discontinued desktop publishing following the abolition of a General Service post in January 2014. Therefore, it is important for the Division to be equipped with necessary resources to resume its desktop publishing in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions to avoid any further backlog in the issuance of these important publications.

5. We appreciate the international law training materials prepared by the Division and we welcome the new International Law Handbook for use in its training courses. Nevertheless, we like to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the Division is equipped with required

resources for the completion of this important educational resource and to distribute hard copies to academic institutions in developing countries thereby promoting international law education in those countries. This is particularly necessary because of countries where there is limited access to the Internet.

Mr. Chairman,

6. My delegation notes that the Secretary-General was authorized to award a minimum of twenty fellowships for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the three Regional Courses in International Law. We like to stress the need to award additional fellowships for these training courses from available resources in the regular budget provided for the Programme of Assistance given the large number of applicants for these training courses.

7. I thank you for your attention.