



STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Penelope Beckles
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York**

on

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

Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)

Seventy-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statements delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (G77 and China) and by the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

At the outset, we wish to thank the Secretary General for the comprehensive report contained in document A/71/432 on this agenda item which provides useful information on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (Programme of Assistance) for the current year as well as the activities for the upcoming year.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Her Excellency Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana for her dedication and leadership as Chair of the Advisory Committee, as well as Ms. Virginia Morris, Secretary of the Advisory Committee for her report and unwavering commitment to ensuring the implementation of activities under the Programme of Assistance, despite limited financial resources.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the Advisory Committee, Trinidad and Tobago remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting all the activities under the Programme of Assistance and ensuring their full implementation. The Programme of Assistance has been instrumental in fostering a better understanding and appreciation of international law through its regional law courses and seminars, law fellowship programmes, and the dissemination of legal publications and information through the internet and other electronic means. To this end, we recognise the significant contribution of the Programme toward strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

We, therefore, reiterate our continued support for and cooperation with the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, as well as Member States, to implementing the activities under the Programme of Assistance.

Trinidad and Tobago is particularly pleased that, for the first time in the history of the Program of Assistance, the International Law Fellowship Program and all three (3) Regional Courses in International Law will be conducted in one year (2016). This was made possible through the generous decision of the General Assembly to provide additional funding through the regular budget for the Program of Assistance for the 2016-2017 biennium

However, we remain concerned that since 2014, the Codification Division had to discontinue its desktop publishing as a result of insufficient resources following the abolition of a General Service post that year. We are pleased to note that for the current year, desktop publishing is being funded on an exceptional basis through voluntary contributions for the preparation of the handbook on international law.

We also wish to recall paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 70/116, which authorised the Secretary General to award a minimum of one (1) scholarship in 2016 and one (1) in 2017 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea from the provisions of the regular budget and, when necessary, from voluntary contributions. In this regard, we regret to note, that owing to a lack of voluntary contributions, no award was made this year and should sufficient voluntary contributions not be received by November this year, there will also be no award for 2017.

To this end, Trinidad and Tobago expresses its gratitude to those Member States which have generously contributed to the activities under the Programme of Assistance. Further, pursuant to the current report of the Secretary General, we reiterate our call on Member States and interested institutions, organisations and individuals, which are in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme of Assistance, with a view of ensuring its continued effectiveness and implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Pursuant to resolution 70/116, we also look forward to the successful completion of the activities under the Programme of Assistance, including the International Law Fellowship Programme and Regional Courses in International Law in 2017, to be financed from the provisions of the regular budget and, when necessary, from voluntary contributions.

In closing, Trinidad and Tobago reiterates its full commitment to ensuring the successful implementation and continuation of the Programme of Assistance for the benefit of present and future generations.