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Statement of the United States of America
71st General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 77: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the
Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
Statement by Emily Pierce, Counsellor
October 17, 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States thanks the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

The United States is pleased to participate on the Advisory Committee on this United Nations Program of Assistance, which made significant and important progress in achieving more sustainable funding for the program last year. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, more than \$2 million was included in the regular budget for Program of Assistance activities in the 2016-2017 biennium for the International Law Fellowship Program, the Regional Courses in International Law, and the Audiovisual Library of International Law. We are deeply appreciative to Ambassador Pobee as Chair of the Committee, for her efforts towards achieving this result.

The Program of Assistance has been making a tremendous contribution to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law for more than 50 years. The General Assembly's decision to include the Program of Assistance on the regular budget reflects the belief that it has clearly earned continuing, strong support of all Member States.

Knowledge of international law helps to advance the work of the United Nations. We believe that, fellow by fellow and training by training, the Program of Assistance is developing new generations of lawyers, judges and diplomats, helping them to gain a deeper understanding of the complex instruments that govern so many aspects of this interconnected world, including numerous instruments that are negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations.

The United States thanks the Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division in particular for its efforts in implementing the Program of Assistance, as well as the other entities at the United Nations that further the wider appreciation of international law. We very much appreciate the creative ways in which the Codification Division has been able to keep important

programs going in the face of limited resources, including the development of the handbook. We encourage it to continue those most commendable efforts to secure voluntary contributions to supplement program budget resources. There is no question that the regional courses in international law, the audiovisual library and other Program of Assistance activities are valuable and well-run, and worthy of support. We believe it is important that this very excellent Program thrives for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.