



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

327 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022
TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672



Please check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RY TUY
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 80

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING,
STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 16 OCTOBER 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to address this Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Mr. Chairman,

2. ASEAN would like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We note with appreciation the Secretary-General's unrelenting efforts to increase international law training within the framework of the Programme of Assistance.
3. ASEAN fully supports the UN Programme of Assistance, which serves an important purpose of promoting wider appreciation for international law among Member States. In turn, this helps strengthen international peace and security, promote friendly relations and cooperation among states, while enhancing respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels.
4. As such, effective implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance is of utmost importance. We commend the work of Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division in this regard. We would also like to extend our appreciation for the work of the Advisory Committee and Ms. Virginia Morris, who served as Secretary of the Advisory Committee, in particular; her steadfast commitment to implementing activities under the Programme of Assistance is commendable, considering the oft limited budgetary resources.
5. We believe that regular financing of the Programme is essential for its effective functioning. Although voluntary contributions are a welcome source of financing the Programme of Assistance, such contributions should not represent the sole financing resource for the implementation of the Programme. ASEAN reiterates its steadfast conviction that the funding for the Programme of Assistance should come from the regular United Nations budget. We hope that the United Nations budget for the next biennium will again adequately reflect all necessary financing for the Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Since 1965, the Programme of Assistance has been the cornerstone of the United Nation's efforts to promote international law, affording comprehensive training and invaluable opportunities for lawyers, particularly from developing countries, and countries with emerging economies. ASEAN welcomes the International Law Fellowship Programme, which was held in The Hague, Netherlands on 26 June - 4 August 2017.

We also support the Hamilton Shirley Amersinghe Memorial Fellowship which promotes greater appreciation for the Law of the Sea, enabling peaceful settlement of disputes.

7. The Fellowship Programme serves an important purpose, enhancing capacities at the national, regional and international levels as it provides high-quality training by eminent international law scholars and legal practitioners on a broad range of core subjects of international law. Moreover, the Programme fosters friendly relations among nations as participants form close friendships and develop professional networks into the future, thus promoting greater understanding and cooperation among international partners.
8. Regional courses in international law also represent an important component of the UN Programme of Assistance. ASEAN remains hopeful that after a number of cancellations in previous years, due to insufficient funding, all regional courses will take place and continue into the future. In this regard, we look forward to the upcoming Regional Course for the Asia-Pacific to be held in Bangkok from 20 November to 15 December this year. The Sixth Committee along with the General Assembly should ensure the continuity of the Asia-Pacific course as well as the regional courses for Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean.
9. ASEAN welcomes the application of advanced technology in disseminating international law-related information to the general public, and particularly scholars, researchers, and practitioners from developing and developed countries alike. The Audiovisual Library plays an important role in this regard. It is one of the most cost-effective and widely accessible tools of knowledge, and we hope that it will be expanded into the future.
10. As provision of financial resources for the efficient operation of the Programme of Assistance has faced some difficulties in the past, ASEAN fully supports language contained in last year's resolution, requesting the Secretary General to continue including resources under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 so as to ensure effective operation of the UN Programme of Assistance and all of the programs under its domain.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The UN Programme of Assistance promotes international law, and upholds the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. ASEAN strongly believes that the Programme thus contributes to valuable goals such as the strengthening of international peace and security, promotion of peaceful settlement of disputes, and improvement in cooperation and friendly relations among nations. ASEAN is hopeful that the Programme will remain a success into the future, and we look forward to engaging constructively on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.