



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil aligns itself with the statements delivered both by Ecuador on behalf of the G77 and China and by El Salvador on behalf of CELAC. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report and deliver some remarks from a national perspective.

The preamble of the Charter of the United Nations states that one of the priorities of this Organization is to “establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained”. This points to a notion whose relevance can not be overstated: that peace can be achieved through law. The aspiration to implement this ideal is what led the General Assembly to establish the Programme of Assistance. Its fellowships, regional courses, publications and audiovisual library have been contributing over more than five decades to educate successive generations in International Law, especially in developing countries.

As a fellow of the 2017 International Law Fellowship Programme, I can personally testify to the quality and professionalism of the work undertaken by the Codification Division in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is pleased to note that Regional Courses have been conducted in Addis Ababa and Santiago earlier this year, and that a Regional Course will also be held in Bangkok later this year. My delegation takes this opportunity to thank Chile, Ethiopia and Thailand, as well as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Codification Division, for their efforts in organizing and hosting them.

The inclusion of funding for all three Regional Courses in the regular budget for the current biennium was no minor achievement. The high numbers of applications submitted in 2016 and 2017 for the courses in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate that there is a significant demand for them. It is therefore crucial to maintain the current level of funding. Brazil welcomes that the necessary resources have been proposed for the regular budget regarding the biennium 2018-2019.

Brazil is also appreciative of the efforts to continue seeking voluntary contributions for the Regional Courses, so as to provide even more training opportunities for lawyers from developing countries. It is important to ensure that any voluntary contribution, be it financial or in-kind, is used to provide additional fellowships to those twenty covered by the regular budget, so as to respond to a steadily increasing demand.

Mr. Chairman,

The Audiovisual Library is another crucial instrument of the Programme of Assistance, since it allows the United Nations to provide, at a relatively low cost, high quality training to an unlimited number of individuals around the world. Considering that the AVL continues to be accessed primarily by users in developed countries, Brazil welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to consider options to enhance its access in regions where there is limited access to high-speed internet through making the materials available in DVDs and USB flash drives. Advancing the multilinguism of the AVL is equally important in this regard. We were pleased to learn that off-site recordings are being undertaken, so as to ensure a broader geographical and linguistic representation of lecturers.

Regarding legal publications, Brazil wishes to reiterate that hard copies are still of value to those who do not have affordable access to internet. The UN should count with adequate resources to resume desktop publishing, avoiding the increasing backlog in the issuance of these publications.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

The debate on the rule of law has been gaining prominence in the UN. If we are to be coherent, we have to ensure adequate resources for all activities of the Programme of Assistance. The inclusion of the Regional Courses in the regular budget for the current biennium was a major step in the right direction. We should continue following this path. At a time when we all emphasize the importance of prevention, let us not forget that education in International Law is a cornerstone of lasting peace.

Thank you.