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**Statement by
The Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal,
Ms. Cristina Pucarinho**

**Sixth Committee
Agenda item 80**

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

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Mr. Chairman,

Portugal would like to thank the UN Secretary-General for his latest report on the implementation of the *United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law*. Portugal's views on the Programme follow closely those expressed by the UN Secretary-General.

The Programme has been running for fifty two years now. It is worth recalling the key role it has played in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law as a well-established means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States. The Programme's role is as crucial today as it was back in 1965.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, in a globalized era, the need for International Law awareness is greater than ever. Therefore, the ever-increasing demand for training and access to sources of International Law can only be seen as a good sign.

For this reason, we wish to commend the International Law Fellowship Programme in the Hague for providing comprehensive high quality training by leading scholars and practitioners, on a broad range of core subjects of International Law. We note with appreciation that this initiative benefits many of the most brilliant legal minds around the globe, particularly those originating from developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards the dissemination of International Law, we would like to commend the good work of the Office of Legal Affairs, responsible for conducting research, collecting legal materials, facilitating electronic research, and organizing the Regional Courses in International Law. We also commend the Office of Legal Affairs' efforts to identify suitable permanent locations for organizing these courses on a regular basis in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, an initiative of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, is indeed an important tool for the study and dissemination of International Law. We praise this initiative for providing online quality training at a global scale at relatively low cost, in response to the ever-increasing demand for International Law training for practitioners and other legal professionals worldwide.

We are aware that the materials – lectures, texts and archives – not always reach the users in developing countries, mostly due to technical reasons related with internet access. We thank and commend the efforts for searching and finding alternatives to overcome those obstacles.

Portugal also welcomes the pilot project to resume continue the desktop publishing initiatives and we applaud the progresses it has achieved.

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal would also like to avail this opportunity to encourage the Office of Legal Affairs to continue its good work in providing technical assistance, to the extent possible with the available resources, on the registration of treaties, depositary practice of the Secretary-General as well as final clauses.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe there is still work to be done within the framework of the Programme for Assistance. Bearing this in mind, we would like to recall how essential it is to make efforts to reach the beneficiaries of the Programme in all aspects deemed necessary, including with regard to language.

We trust that all like-minded partners, in particular the United Nations, will continuously pursue its best endeavors to implement a successful half-century Programme and ensure its deliverance to its beneficiaries, thus making an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security through the dissemination of International Law.

Mr. Chairman,

As a current member of the Advisory Committee, Portugal would like to reiterate its pledge regarding the Programme and reaffirm our commitment to continue working in the promotion and dissemination of International Law, towards a more just and peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.