

Algeria



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
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نيويورك

Statement

On behalf of the African Group

by

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Before the Sixth Committee

72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

Under Agenda Item 84

“Rule of Law at the National and International levels”

New York, 4th October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for affording me the floor. My delegation, once again, has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, the African Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report which highlights United Nations rule of law developments and activities at the national and international levels over the past year. The reports emphasizes developments related to “Ways and means to further disseminate international law to strengthen the rule of law”, the subtopic chosen last year for consideration at this 72nd session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group is of the view that dissemination of international law is one of the best options to strengthen the rule of law at the international level. In this regard, this process can take place both through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Technological means can be instrumental to enhance dissemination of international law.

Dissemination of international law contributes inevitably to the strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among States. It is even an obligation to disseminate international humanitarian law as treaty-based obligations for States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols. .

Mr. Chairman,

At the level of our region, the African Union Commission on International Law constitutes a good lever of dissemination of international law. This commission serves as an advisory organ of the Union. The establishment of this organ was guided by the importance of accelerating the socio-economic development of the Continent through the promotion of research in all fields. It was also inspired by the common goal to strengthen and consolidate the principles of international law. The AU Commission on International Law is encouraging the teaching, study, publication and dissemination of literature on international law, in particular the laws of the Union with a view to promoting acceptance and respect for the principles of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect for the Union and recourse to its Organs.

At a different level, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization is a good example of dissemination international law to strengthen the rule of law. It is an example of cooperation between two regions of the world in terms of exchange of views, experiences and information relating to international law. This international governmental organization participates in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly. We believe that this example could serve as model for further cooperation between other regions.

When it comes to dissemination of international law at the multilateral level, the United Nations organization plays an important role. One of its cornerstones' efforts is the promotion international law, and the African Group calls upon the UN Secretariat to explore further ways

and means to disseminate international law in order to strengthen the rule of law at the international level.

The UN Charter itself contains a provision, in Article 102, regarding the obligation to Member States to register treaties and international agreements to which they are parties with the UN Secretariat and published by it.

The United Nations promote also international law through its Programme of Assistance in the teaching, Study, dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. This programme contributes actively to a better knowledge of international law through the international law fellowship programme, the Regional Courses in International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law and the preparation and dissemination of publications and other information relating to international law. The Programme has been playing an important role in advancing the teaching, study and application of international law, particularly in developing countries. It has been helping these countries enhance their capacity building in the field of international law.

The African Group strongly supports the Programme of Assistance and would like to seize this opportunity to express its deep gratitude to all that make each year possible the organization of the regional course in international law for the African region. A very large number of African scholars and civil servants benefited from this programme, including legal advisers serving in Permanent Missions in New York.

I thank you for your attention.