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**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY
MR. AMADOU JAITEH
FIRST SECRETARY
OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE
73RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 81
"UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"**

NEW YORK, 19TH OCTOBER 2018

Mr. Chair,

My delegation has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda item titled “United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”. The Group commends our Organization for the continued recognition of this very important Programme of Assistance, established by the General Assembly through **Resolution 2099** to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

Mr. Chair,

At the request of the General Assembly and following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years, the Secretary-General once again has presented us with a report worthy to command remarks of member states on this item.

The African Group wishes to thank the Secretary-General for the stated report on the Programme of Assistance. We are happy to learn as reported in the report that the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, including Audiovisual Library of International Law benefiting Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean has been granted support through the regular budget for biennium 2018-2019.

Mr. Chair,

The United Nations was founded with the conviction that it is international law that rules the relations among States. For a world order based on the rule of law, we need to study, understand, teach and disseminate knowledge of international law. This is the main purpose of this Programme and it has trained generations of state lawyers. We hope that Member States, like the members of the African Group, remain committed to these objectives and to take the necessary steps to ensure the continuation of the Programme of Assistance.

Our resolve has to be unequivocal. The Group urges all Member States to join efforts in ensuring that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are effectively implemented and that therefore regular budgetary funding is provided for the Programme of Assistance for the benefit of developing and developed countries alike. The Group is ready to work with all Member States to make sure that this happens.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group supports the work of the UN Programme of Assistance, particularly as it relates to the development of international law in Africa. It should be noted that the African Union contributes to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the lectures at the African Union. The African Institute of International Law, which is dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, has recently

been established with the objectives to work on progressive development of international law and codification of international law in Africa, contribute to the objectives and principles of the African Union, and work on the revision of treaties in Africa.

It should further be noted in this regard that the AU took a decision at the May 2013 Summit that African States should support proper funding of the Programme of Assistance including, if necessary, through the regular budget of the UN. It is, *inter alia*, for this reason, that the African Group supports the proper funding of the Programme of Assistance through the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to recognize, on behalf of the Group, the Secretariat, both the Codification Division and the Division for Oceans and the Law of the Sea, all Member States who have made voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, the lecturers who contribute to the regional courses and to the Audiovisual Library, and the delegation of Ghana for its clear leadership and its tireless efforts at the Advisory Committee as the Chair.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chair,** Let us then renew our commitment to international law through capacity building as enshrined in the Programme of Assistance.

I thank you.