



*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MS. H. ELIZABETH THOMPSON**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**ON THE**

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

**AT THE**

**SEVENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

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**United Nations Headquarters  
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*please check against delivery*

**Mr. Chairman**

**I offer my congratulations to you on your election to the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee and to the other members of the Bureau. Barbados wishes to assure the Committee of its full cooperation and support during its deliberations.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We align ourselves with the Statements delivered by the representatives of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and El Salvador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).**

**My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/73/415 on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. The report updates the Committee on the steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement the Programme of Assistance during 2018 as well as activities slated to take place in 2019, pursuant to resolution 72/115. In this regard, CARICOM is pleased to learn that the Codification Division was able to successfully convene the three Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia & the Pacific and our own region, Latin America and the Caribbean.**

**We are particularly pleased that representatives from six of our member states, namely The Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago were able to participate in the regional course for Latin America and Caribbean. We take this opportunity to thank the Government of Chile and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for hosting the event.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**CARICOM wishes to congratulate the Codification Division on the convening of the annual International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague from 25 June to 3 August 2018, and note with appreciation the awarding of one of the fellowships to our sister country Haiti. We are also pleased to learn that sufficient funding was made available to maintain the Audio-Visual Library of International Law during this year.**

**The fact that the Library has been utilised, since its establishment, by more than 1.6 million users in 193 countries is testimony to the enduring worth of the Library to lawyers and academics around the world. We therefore encourage the Codification Division to continue its efforts to make much of the information available in the Library, also available on podcast, DVDs and other relevant media.**

**In addition, CARICOM supports the efforts of the Codification Division to continue its desktop publishing after a brief hiatus. We cannot underscore**

enough, our support for the provision of training materials in hard copy, CD-Roms, USB flash drives and other relevant media, including the publication of the International Law Handbook in two of the six official languages of the United Nations. We believe that these initiatives will contribute to the even wider understanding and appreciation of international law.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM recognises the important role that the rule of law at the national and international levels play in the maintenance of international peace of security, development and respect for human rights. Further, the role that multilateral treaty-making plays in promoting and advancing the rule of law must equally be underscored given the invaluable contribution to the maintenance of a rules-based international order and the further role of the system of international law and courts.

In an increasingly complex, globalised and inter-connected world, with an ever growing number of multilateral treaties, it is vital that the Programme of Assistance continues to receive the resources it needs to carry out its mandate. CARICOM therefore supports financing for the Programme within the Regular Budget of the United Nations, and at the same encourages States and other juridical persons to make voluntary contributions to the various activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance. In this regard, CARICOM wishes to express its deep appreciation to the countries of Finland, Portugal, Qatar, Czechia, Switzerland, China, Philippines, Ireland and the United

**Kingdom for their voluntary contributions to the Programme during 2018. We encourage these countries and others that are in a position to do so to maintain their invaluable support for the Programme.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**While the countries of our region have been strong advocates for the respect of the rule of law, a rules based international order and the peaceful settlement of disputes, CARICOM is of the view that the United Nations must not become complacent. Given the developing and evolving nature of international law, it is critical that succeeding generations of Latin American and Caribbean lawyers are exposed to growing and emerging principles of international law. This is especially important in States where multilateral conventions must be incorporated in the domestic law in order to have proper effect.**

**In view of the role that the Programme will continue to play in promoting implementation of the rule of law at the national and international levels and promoting sovereign equality and friendly cooperation between States, CARICOM remains committed to supporting the yeoman work being undertaken by the Codification Division, in support of the Programme of Assistance. We believe that the continued support of all member states will redound to the benefit of developed and developing countries alike. We underscore our support of this work in the context of the role and rule of law in bridging cultures, fostering understanding, building cooperation, and underpinning the creation of peace, stability and order across the globe.**

**I thank you, Chair.**