



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

at the Sixth Committee

on the agenda item 81

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

United Nations

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— CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY —

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States renew their support to the Ambassador of Ghana as the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider appreciation of International Law, and express their gratitude to Ghana for its longstanding and active leadership of the Committee.

We reiterate our strong support for the Programme of Assistance and we commend its effective contribution to the Rule of Law, in particular by addressing the need for International Law training and dissemination of legal knowledge and material . Through these activities, the Programme benefits all countries.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary General A/73/415, which covers both the implementation of the Programme in 2018 and the activities planned for 2019. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.

Mr Chairman,

Concerning the International Law Fellowship Programme, which provides comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars, the EU and its member States consider that the various seminars organised by the Codification Division are crucial since they play a key role in building a common legal culture among young generations.

For the same reason, while noting that these courses provide an opportunity to focus on legal issues of common interest for their respective regions, we welcome the three United Nations Regional Courses which took place in Addis Ababa from 5 February to 2 March 2018, in Bangkok from 20 November to 15 December 2017 and in Santiago from 23 April to 18 May 2018. Given the limited number of participants who can be accommodated in the International Law Fellowship Program, these courses play an essential role in the dissemination of international law. We thank the United Nations regional commissions for their facilitation of the organisation of the courses.

The establishment and continuous expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law is an especially significant achievement, offering easy access to a vast range of legal resources, at a relatively low cost, in several languages to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the world. The EU and its Member States thank the Codification Division for its significant efforts to facilitate access to the lectures through the podcast

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

project started in 2017. The Audiovisual Library continues to be an important resource for the legal community, including students, international law practitioners and even historians and we encourage continued attention by the Codification Division to this project.

Furthermore, we note with appreciation that the Codification Division continued to disseminate legal publications and information through the Internet. We commend the Codification Division for finalising the preparation of the French edition of its publication, the "*Recueil de droit international: Collection d'instruments*".

Mr. Chairman,

We congratulate the Codification Division for the desktop publishing activities continued in 2018 after they had resumed in 2017 as well as for its plans to publish various books by the end of the year in particular the United Nations Juridical Year Book (2014). We hope also that the availability of resources will allow the Division to sustain such efforts in 2019.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea to the wider appreciation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea and the work of DOALOS in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU and its Member States commend States that have provided voluntary contributions to the Programme for the regional courses, the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Audiovisual Library and the International Law Handbook. We also thank the different entities that in 2018 provided reduced tuition rates for the fellows or logistical support. We encourage all States to consider making more frequent or increased contributions in the future in order to sustain the projected regional courses, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, as well as the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

We thank once again the Advisory Committee for its work and we note the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.