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**STATEMENT
TO BE DELIVERED BY
H.E. MRS. MARTHA A. A. POBEE,
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT
ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME
OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, ITEM 81,**

19TH OCTOBER, 2018, NEW YORK

I thank you **Chairperson** for giving me the floor. Since this is my first time of addressing the Committee, let me also use this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I have the honour and privilege to deliver this statement in my capacity 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 also in my national capacity.

Chairperson,

The Fifty-third session of the Advisory Committee was held on 4th October, 2018 from 10.00am to 12.00 noon to consider the draft report of the Secretary-General, which is contained in document A/73/415, now available to all members of the Committee. The Session reviewed the implementation of activities undertaken in 2018 as well as activities proposed for 2019, including the resulting administrative and financial implications.

It was evident from the large number of applications received for the International Law Fellowship Programme and Regional Courses in International Law in the past year that there was a clear need for training. It also reflected the continuing relevance of these activities and it is gratifying to note that the current provision in the UN Regular Budget has made it possible to hold all three Regional Courses. The support of the Regional Commissions and member states, who hosted these activities, is commendable. I also wish to use this opportunity to express appreciation to Ethiopia, Thailand and Chile for hosting the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean respectively.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law is a unique element of the Programme of Assistance, which has the potential of making high quality learning resources readily available to students and international law practitioners in every corner of the globe, at relatively low cost. This, however, is provided there is reliable internet connectivity. The launch of the podcasts of the Lecture Series this year is a step in the right direction as it aims to significantly increase accessibility of the AVL for those who do not

have the benefit of high speed internet. Another challenge is to be able to cater to those without any internet connectivity at all. The AVL coupled with international law materials available on USB flash drives and CD-ROMs and the desktop publishing facility all together, remain strong elements of the Programme of Assistance and must be supported to continue.

Chairperson,

As consistently recognized by the General Assembly, the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations, which continues to provide the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law and thereby establish conditions under which justice and respect for international law can be maintained as envisaged in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

Chairperson,

I take this opportunity to also express my sincere thanks to members of the Advisory Committee for their continued commitment and support for the Programme of Assistance. The invaluable interventions from Member States, who provided useful and constructive advice on issues bordering on wider coverage of lecture materials; the dissemination of training materials; meeting technological challenges in the use of the AVL; and the need for resources to cover the cost of preparation of the International Law Handbook in all the official languages, made this session particularly fruitful.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat continued to provide dedicated service in a range of areas for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance and I wish to take this opportunity to welcome and thank Ms. Jessica M. Elbaz, Principal Legal Officer of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, who has assumed the role of Secretary of the Advisory Committee late last year. I also thank the staff of his Division for the good work done in ensuring that the Programme of Assistance met its set targets. The Advisory Committee intends to remain engaged with the Secretariat in the course of this Session with a view to meeting set targets.

In conclusion, **Chairperson**, it is evident that the Programme of Assistance remains relevant. The interest shown in the various activities and the high number of applications received from Member States, particularly from Africa, attest to the fact that the Programme of Assistance remains one of the effective capacity-building tools in international law, whose scope and reach could be further enhanced.

I wish to also reaffirm Ghana's commitment to the POA. My delegation has traditionally served as the coordinator of the draft resolution for this item and we wish to continue to undertake this responsibility together with Mr. Solomon Korbie, Minister Counsellor and Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations. We count on the support of all delegations in this regard.

I thank you.