



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by

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First Counsellor**

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

at the Sixth Committee

on the agenda item 78

**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. (/Ms.) Chair-,

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, 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 express their gratitude to the Ambassador of Ghana for his longstanding and active leadership of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

We reiterate our 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 in several languages, to the benefit of all countries.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary General A/74/(tbc), which covers both the implementation of the Programme in 2019 and the activities planned for 2020. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. (/Ms.) Chair-,

The International Law Fellowship Programme continues to provide comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems. The EU and its member States consider that the various seminars organised by the Codification Division are crucial in building a common legal culture among young professionals.

We welcome the organization of the three United Nations Regional Courses, which took place in Addis Ababa from 11 February to 8 March 2019, in Santiago from 29 April to 24 May 2019 and in Bangkok from 18 November to 14 December 2018. Given the limited number of participants who can be accommodated in the International Law Fellowship Program, these regional courses play an essential role in the dissemination of international law and in building a common legal culture among young professionals. We thank the United Nations regional commissions for facilitating the organisation of the courses.

The establishment and continuous expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law is an especially significant achievement, as it offers an easy access to a vast range of legal resources, 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 all its efforts to improve access to the Audiovisual Library through the podcast project since 2017 and for further expanding the Library resources in multiple languages. The Audiovisual Library continues to be an important resource for the international legal community, including students, practitioners and even historians. 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 welcome the efforts to develop the section of materials for moot court competitions held at academic institutions, as these competitions provide students with connections to fellow future practitioners from around the world and an opportunity to discuss current issues of international law with their peers. We encourage the Codification Division to continue to broaden the resources and to develop the Audiovisual Library's website, with a view to enhancing gender, geographic, digital and linguistic inclusivity of its contents.

Mr. (/Ms.) Chair-,

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

We congratulate the Codification Division for the desktop publishing activities continued in 2019. We are particularly pleased about the publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook (2014)*, the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (2013-2017)* and the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards (Vol.31)*. We hope also that the availability of resources will allow the Division to sustain such efforts in 2020.

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. We would like to see a financially stable programme, as the fellowship plays an important role for distribution of knowledge and competence within law of the sea.

Mr. (/Ms.) Chair-,

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 2019 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 outgoing Advisory Committee for its work. We congratulate the newly elected Advisory Committee and take note of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General.

I thank you, Mr. (/Ms.) Chair-.