

# GHANA



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**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MRS. MARTHA A. A. POBEE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA TO THE UN**

**ON  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON  
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF  
ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,  
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, ITEM 78**

**AT  
THE UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK  
25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

I thank you **Mr. Chair** for giving me the floor. Since this is my first time 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.

**Mr. Chair,**

The Fifty-fourth session of the Advisory Committee was held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from 10.00am to 11.30.00 am, to consider the draft report of the Secretary-General, which is contained in document A/74/496, now available to all members of this Committee. The Advisory Committee reviewed the activities of the Programme of Assistance undertaken during the reporting period as well as activities proposed in 2020, including their resulting administrative and financial implications.

The large number of applications received in the past year for the International Law Fellowship Programme and Regional Courses in International Law provided ample evidence of the clear need for capacity-building and training. It also reflected the continuing relevance of the activities of the Programme of Assistance, particularly for developing countries. It is

gratifying to note that the current provision in the UN Regular Budget has made it possible to hold all three Regional Courses for the fourth year in a row.

I wish to take 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 and commend the Regional Commissions for their continued support.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law (AVL) 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 potential, however, can only be fully realized provided there is reliable internet connectivity. The launch of the podcasts of the Lecture Series last year was a step in the right direction, as it has significantly increased 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.

**Mr. Chair,**

There is no doubt that the Programme's impact across the globe is significant at various levels. I was particularly pleased to note that the Secretariat continued to devote attention to enhancing language and geographical diversity as well as gender parity in implementing the Programme. At the recent meeting of the Advisory Committee, Members welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to achieve gender parity among participants of the training programmes and to increase the number of female lecturers. A quarter of a century after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, women have gained recognition as critical actors and agents for change. As women increasingly achieve better educational outcomes, it is important that the Programme of Assistance continues this positive trend and provide additional opportunities for women towards parity in all aspects of the Programme's activities.

**Mr. Chair,**

As consistently recognized by the General Assembly, the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations, which constitutes an effective tool for promoting a better knowledge of international law and the conditions under which justice and respect for international law can be maintained as envisaged in the Preamble to the Charter. The work of the Advisory Committee has no doubt enhanced the effectiveness and scope of the programme, and I wish to take this opportunity to express Ghana's sincere thanks to members

of the Advisory Committee for their continued commitment and support for the Programme over the years. As Chair of the Advisory Committee, we are especially appreciative of the constructive interventions from Member States as well as the positive spirit that has characterized our deliberations and made this session particularly fruitful. The recommendations on many issues, including the dissemination of training materials in international law and the accessibility of the AVL will no doubt further enhance capacity-building in this important area.

I am 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 thank Ms. Jessica M. Elbaz, Principal Legal Officer of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, for her continued role as Secretary of the Advisory Committee. I also thank the staff of her Division for the good work done in implementing the Programme of Assistance.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, I wish to reiterate the continued relevance of the Programme of Assistance. 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. Ghana wishes, therefore, to urge Member

States to remain committed to the programme and to ensuring that its activities are well-funded through the Regular Budget and through other voluntary contributions.

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 serve in this capacity. In this regard, Mr. Solomon Korbieh, Minister Counsellor and Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ghana will begin open and transparent consultations on the draft resolution and we count on the support and cooperation of all delegations.

**I thank you.**