



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by

MS. HAWANATU KEBE
First Secretary

to the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 78:

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

New York, 25th October 2019

[Please Check Against Delivery]

Chair,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to speak on the agenda item 78: **“United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”**. The delegation of Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statements of the State of Palestine delivered on behalf of G77 and China, and the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group respectively.

We thank the Secretary General for his report A/74/496 on the agenda item, 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, its committed staff led by the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, **Ms. Jessica Elbaz**, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance. We also commend the Permanent Representative of Ghana, **Her Excellency Mrs. Martha Pobee**, in her capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee, for her commitment and effective coordination of the Committee. We also thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work and commitment.

The Programme of Assistance was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965 (by resolution [2099](#)), to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law, which will create a platform to strengthen international peace and security, promote friendly relations and cooperation and for the promotion of capacity building and the sharing of best practices on emerging global issues among States.

My delegation welcomes every opportunity for capacity building, training and skills management and the accessibility of much needed resource on international law, as capacity-development enables an informed approach to tackle emerging issues of interest to my country and the international community. In this regard, we express our appreciation for the competitive selection and participation of nationals of Sierra Leone in the Regional course in International Law held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2018, and the International Law Fellowship held in the Hague, Netherlands in July 2019, and we look forward to further participation and capacity building opportunities.

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 call on all Member States to support and make voluntary contributions to this fellowship in a bid to enable it carry out its objectives.

We note with keen interest and commend the gender parity in the selection of participants in both the Regional courses and the International Law Fellowship, and we look forward to its continuous reflection in the future courses. We also welcome the efficiency in partnership between the Codification Division and the Regional Commissions of the United Nations that host the regional courses and commends their contributions and cost reduction mechanisms. We also note with appreciation the setting up of an Alumni network that will bring together former participants in a platform to highlight the benefits and positive impact of the Programme in their professional work, and further enable peer-sharing of experiences and strengthening of networking opportunities.

Chair,

Sierra Leone joins the call for sustainable financing of the Programme of Assistance, and further calls on Member States with means and organizations to make voluntary contributions to support the Programme. We commend Member States and organizations that have made voluntary contributions.

We reiterate our strong support for the Programme of Assistance and we applaud its effective contribution to the Rule of Law, especially by addressing the dire need for the training and wider appreciation of international law; and for the provision of legal knowledge and resources which are of great benefit to legal practitioners around the world, particularly in Africa.

In concluding, we call on all Member States to continue to support the work of the Programme of Assistance and to further promote the objectives of the Programme which is to ensure the wider appreciation, study and dissemination of International Law.

I thank you for your attention.