



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini
to the United Nations**

Statement on behalf of the African Group

by

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Under Agenda Item 79:
“United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”

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Distinguished Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Guyana on behalf of G-77 and China. The African Group would also like to express our appreciation for the activities conducted by the Office of Legal Affairs for the activities that have been undertaken by the United Nations in pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Widespread Appreciation of International Law as outlined in the Secretary-General's report A/75/389 submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/185.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group is a strong advocate for the primacy of multilateral action and ensuring the rule of law as a basis for international cooperation. The United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law is a key tool in advancing the capacitation of all Member States to be able to participate on an equal basis in the international order. The United Nations plays a fundamental role in strengthening the promotion of the rule of law through the implementation of the Program.

Mr. Chair,

As has been accurately captured by General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, an improved universal knowledge of international law plays an inherent role in assuring international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among states. As such, not only does the United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law directly serve the very objectives and principles of the United Nations and the foundation of the current global order, it also represents an important assistive tool for the implementation of United Nations programmes and activities worldwide.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group notes with appreciation the activities outlined in the Secretary General's report in relation to the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses on International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the website, in addition to Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship. The African Group acknowledges the paramount importance of such activities in the dissemination of international law knowledge and capacity building of legal professionals worldwide, particularly in Africa. In this regard, it is particularly noteworthy that the overwhelming applicants, 347 out of the 433 in total, for the 2020 International Law Fellowship Programme are from Africa. This is indicative of the apparent need for the further capacitation of Africa in this regard.

Mr. Chair, whilst we are grateful that the Regional Course in Africa was successfully held in February in Addis, the African Group laments the fact that owing to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Regional Course in Latin-America could not be held. We further extend our appreciation to the Codification Division who, in order to address the exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19, designed and provided participants with a remote self-paced learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity-building until the Regional Course could next be held. The African Group similarly remains hopeful that the recipient of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, Ms. Linda Bana of Ghana,

shall be able to undertake her studies once travel restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic had been eased. We appreciate the interim measures adopted to assist Ms. Bana to deepen her knowledge and expertise in the interim.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group wishes to emphasize the importance of securing the necessary predictable budget for the activities of the Programme of Assistance and encourages all Member States to support the necessary allocations from the regular budget of the United Nations. The activities conducted under the Programme should definitely be a priority for the general membership of the organization. The Group wishes also to seize this opportunity to express its appreciation for all Member States that have made voluntary and in-kind contributions for the activities of the Programme of Assistance, and calls upon the Secretariat to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite interested entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions with a view of creating funding predictability for the Programme and expanding its activities for which there is rising demand.

In this regard, we welcome the commitment made by Ministers of the G-77 to include the International Law Fellowship Programme, the seminars and regional training on international treaty laws and practice and the legal publications and training materials, as well as the necessary funding for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, in the budget of the UN.

As we conclude Mr. Chair, permit me to thank on behalf of the African Group, Her Excellency, Martha Pobe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana for the sterling work that she has undertaken as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law since her assumption of duty in July 2015. We applaud her tireless efforts and dedication to the Programme and offer our sincerest gratitude and appreciation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.