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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

before the Sixth Committee

of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 79:

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

New York, 6 November 2020

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document A/75/389, which provides a summary of the activities already undertaken as well as activities that are planned for 2021 to implement the Programme of Assistance. We also would like to express our appreciation to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for the work done thus far and for its laudable efforts in ensuring that the Programme of Assistance is carried out and implemented fully and efficiently.

Thailand has a firm conviction that the Programme of Assistance has played a significant role in promoting better and deeper understanding of international law, which could enhance the maintaining of international peace and security, strengthening the rule of law at all levels.

Mr. Chair,

My intervention will address three main issues as follows:

First, Thailand is of the view that the UN Regional Course is one of the most successful tools of the Programme of Assistance to achieve its goal. We are proud to have successfully co-hosted the UN Regional Course in International Law for the Asia-Pacific eight times, the most recent one being from 18 November to 13 December 2019 at UNESCAP in Bangkok. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 UN Regional Course has to be postponed for health and safety reasons. Nevertheless, Thailand looks forward to co-hosting the annual Regional Course once again when the global situation of COVID-19 has improved. We are also pleased to expand the scope of participants to include those from Turkey and Palestine at the next Regional Course.

Second, Thailand commends the Codification Office for the improvement and updates of the Audiovisual Library website. We encourage more recent videos to be uploaded to the website, and recommend the addition of the “recent development in international law” tab in the website to better keep users abreast of the latest development in international law.

Third, since 2020 has been an exceptional year due to the challenges arising from COVID-19, which has created difficulties to implement the activities of the Programme, we share the same view with the Advisory Committee that the Codification Division should continue exploring innovative means to achieving its objectives. In order to continue the dissemination of knowledge on international law and facilitate other works of the Programme, Thailand encourages the wider utilization of internet and digital technology, such as webinars and online courses, as well as the development of new media to disseminate international law, such as mobile application and digital platform.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation reiterates our full support for the Programme of Assistance and recognises that the effective implementation of the Programme, indeed, requires regular and adequate funding. It is our hope that the funding and resources of these activities remain in

the regular budget of the Organization and that Member States will continue to make voluntary contributions, financial or otherwise, to ensure the smooth functioning of the Programme.

I thank you.