



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

INTERVENTION BY

**MR. KAVOY ASHLEY
FIRST SECRETARY OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON
AGENDA ITEM 81
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING,
STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW**

**IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OCTOBER 21, 2021
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Madam Chair,

Jamaica thanks the Secretary General for his report on the activities conducted in the implementation of the Programme of Assistance over the past year and on the activities planned for 2022.

The importance of the Programme of Assistance cannot be emphasized enough. It meets a critical need for capacity building in international law and diplomacy, especially for developing states. Training in international law supports the rule of law, facilitates wider and more effective participation in the multilateral system by all states and strengthens the capacity of all states to interact meaningfully in their bilateral engagements.

Against this background, my delegation wishes to commend the UN Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, for its significant efforts in planning and executing the various activities under the Programme over the last year. The Covid-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for the delivery of the programme and the Codification Division responded well to those challenges in 2020. The Division was also able to maximise opportunities that were presented in 2021 notwithstanding the fact that uncertainties and challenges persisted.

Madam Chair,

Although some face-to-face activity resumed in 2021, it was unfortunate that important aspects of the Programme had to be conducted virtually in light of the pandemic. Like last year, the 2021 Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean could not take place in-person. My delegation is grateful however that an amended version of the course was delivered online and that a representative of Jamaica benefitted from participating in this virtual activity.

While hosting activities in the virtual space has allowed the Codification Division to continue to implement the Programme during the pandemic, as noted in the Secretary General in his report, in-person training activities provide “unique advantages in terms of promoting in-depth discussions, interaction and cooperation among participants.” This interpersonal engagement also has the added benefit of strengthening relationships between States. My delegation therefore welcomes plans for the resumption of the in-person training programmes in a safe manner in 2022.

My delegation also wishes to commend the Codification Division for the initiative shown in organizing educational activities for alumni of the training programmes.

In conclusion, my delegation notes with appreciation the continued provision of resources for the Programme of Assistance by Member States and International Organizations through support for financing through the regular budget as well as voluntary contributions, financial or otherwise. This continued support by Member States ensures the sustainability of the programme and is critical in helping the Programme achieve its goals.