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STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOVANN KE
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OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 76
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2022

Mr. Chairman!

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/77/515, which covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, and activities planned for 2023. ASEAN also commends the efforts of the Advisory Committee and the Office of Legal Affairs in particular the Codification Division in conducting activities under the Programme of Assistance.

We note that the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean could not be held as planned during the reporting period due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this challenge, ASEAN takes note with appreciation of the tireless efforts of the Codification Division in providing a remote self-paced learning curriculum to applicants, while conducting the International Law Fellowship Programme in person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

Although the provision of remote learning tools was an appropriate short-term means of capacity-building during this global pandemic, a remote self-paced learning curriculum should not become a de-facto substitute for in-person trainings under the Programme of Assistance. As such, ASEAN would like to underscore the importance of retaining and resuming all activities in person in 2023 onward.

Mr. Chairman!

ASEAN acknowledges the key role of and fully supports the Programme of Assistance in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, which contributes to the strengthening of international peace and security. The activities conducted in traditional in-person format help deepen knowledge and capacities of participants in the field of international law, provide an invaluable experience, and promote in-depth discussions as well as foster friendly relations and cooperation among participants.

In this connection, ASEAN welcomes the ongoing preparations for the resumption of in-person programmes, particularly the efforts being made towards the commencement of the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean which are important for developing countries.

ASEAN takes note of the work undertaken by the Codification Division in supporting the alumni network and providing online interactive sessions on lectures of the Audiovisual Library, and a shared online repository of international law materials and publications. ASEAN is convinced that this platform will serve as a helpful tool for participants of the training programs.

Mr. Chairman!

ASEAN strongly supports the funding of activities of the Programme from the regular budget of the United Nations. We encourage voluntary contributions to further expand and enhance the activities. Taking this opportunity, ASEAN would like to thank all member countries who have made their continued contribution to the Programme of Assistance.

I would like to conclude by reiterating ASEAN's continued commitment and support for the United Nations Programme of Assistance with a view to further promoting international law, while strengthening multilateral cooperation and friendly relations among nations.

Thank you.