



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 76:

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

United Nations

New York

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Türkiye, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, and the Republic of Moldova, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Andorra and Monaco align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We thank the Secretary General for his report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance.

The European Union and its Member States support and appreciate the valuable work of the Programme over the years. Since the commencement of the Regional Courses in International Law and International Law Fellowships, the Programme has significantly enhanced national capabilities in international law and expanded training opportunities for participants around the world. It is invaluable to expand the training opportunities with focus on participants from developing countries and to concentrate in the Regional Courses not only on the core topics of international law, but also on contemporary issues with a specific focus on the region itself.

As the pandemic affected education of millions of people around the globe, we commend the Programme for swiftly moving the Regional Courses to online platforms to minimize the negative impact of the pandemic. However, one of the main gains of the Regional Courses is the creation of professional bonds between participants. We are thus supportive of the plan to commence the Regional Courses, in person, in 2023. We applaud the Programme for establishing the alumni networks, and hope that the online educational activities and interactive sessions will continue to be organised.

We would also like to congratulate the Programme for recording 41 new lectures for the Audiovisual Library of International Law during the past reporting period. The Library is an important educational tool that can be accessed free of charge by anyone, thus providing an easily accessible education opportunity for scholars around the globe. The number of new users has exponentially grown since 2008 to almost 3 million new users in 2022. We believe, however, that the Library would benefit from a more modern and user-friendly platform.

We also support more geographical, linguistic and gender diversity among the scholars in the lectures and the participants. Member States should encourage more women to apply to the courses offered by the Programme, as women's full and equal participation in all levels of society starts with a good education and formation.

We cannot stress enough the importance of multilingualism in ensuring equal and broad access to all activities under the Programme. We support the enhancement of the lectures and other training opportunities in languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations.

Finally, we support the suggestion of the Secretary General in the latest report to redeploy one post of the Principal Legal Officer (D-1) from the Codification Division to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs in order to achieve easier and more concentrated managerial oversight. We also welcome the fact that the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Regional Courses and the Audiovisual Library are currently financed, in addition to voluntary contributions, from the regular budget.

Mr./Madam Chair,

In closing, the European Union and the Member States support all activities of the Programme of Assistance. We believe education in international law not only improves the opportunities of the participants but also contribute to strengthening multilateralism through the creation of networks and the development of national capacities.

Thank you.