

# **Statement of Portugal**

**at the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of Sixth Committee of the General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 76**

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

***Check against delivery***

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and would like to offer a few additional remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Programme in 2022 and welcome the recommendations contained therein for the next years of the Programme. We see good progress in terms resuming activities after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we hope this trend continues.

The Programme has been widely recognized for its active contribution to promoting better knowledge of International Law, and as a means to not only strengthening international peace and security, but also supporting friendly relations and co-operation among States. Two cornerstones that, as recent developments have shown, are of the utmost importance and should be cherished.

However, in our view, there is still room for improving awareness of the Programme among the general public. Accordingly, we believe it is crucial that States continue their work towards disseminating information on the Programme in their countries, namely in universities and their civil services, so that students, young scholars and young professionals know of its existence, as well as of its initiatives and resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The Programme continues responding to the ever-increasing demand for training on, and access to, resources on International Law. Its recurring programmes and initiatives – such as the International Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean – provide an opportunity to many, mostly from developing countries, who otherwise might not have access to training or resources in International Law.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to once again commend the outstanding work of the Office of Legal Affairs, including its Codification Division, for its activities in support of the dissemination of International Law and the implementation of the Programme, while ensuring their administrative and financial efficiency.

We also praise the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs in maintaining and expanding, at a relatively low cost, the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

As we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, reliable distance learning and remote training tools can have a positive impact in the future of individuals, communities, and nations, bridging inequality gaps and, in our view, allowing more people to have access to training and resources in International Law.

In particular, we note the role of the AVL in supporting the study and dissemination of International Law at the global scale, and we very much welcome its efforts to further its linguistic and geographic inclusiveness.

A word of appreciation is also due to the UN Regional Commissions for providing venues for the Regional Courses throughout the years. As the pandemic situation and its effects seems to subside, we hope these venues may soon welcome new participants.

Mr. Chairman,

As with so many other UN initiatives, the Programme will always struggle with funding. We welcome the fact that the Programme has once again been included in the Member State-financed regular budget of the United Nations, but we also acknowledge that this funding alone cannot cover all the Programme's financial needs. Voluntary contributions offer added support to the Programme.

Moreover, Portugal argues that it is always useful to debate new and creative funding mechanisms, so that the Programme can fulfil its mission in a financially sustainable way. As in previous years, we would like to point out that establishing partnerships with NGOs, Universities, Research Institutes or even law firms might grant additional support.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the Advisory Committee, Portugal would like to finish its statement by conclude its statement on this agenda item by reiterating its pledge towards the Programme and reaffirming its commitment to continuing working in the promotion and dissemination of International Law as a means to build a fair, free and peaceful international society, as envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.