



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

336 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017

STATEMENT

by

H.E. DR. MICHAEL IMRAN KANU
Deputy Permanent Representative

at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item: 76

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

New York, 20th October 2022

Check Against Delivery

**Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively aligns this statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of the **Kingdom of Morocco** on behalf of the African Group, the **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, and the **Islamic Republic of Iran** on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. We thank the Secretary-General for his report **A/76/515** on the agenda item “*United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International law*” (“Programme of Assistance”), which provides information concerning the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during the reporting period, as well as the activities planned for 2023 and the related administrative and financial implications.
3. We commend the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division, its committed staff, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance, which covers, inter alia, organizing and conducting the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the International Law Fellowship Programme, preparing and issuing publications, developing and

maintaining the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and the website of the Programme of Assistance.

4. We also commend the Permanent Representative of Ghana, **His Excellency Harold Adlai Agyeman**, in his capacity as Chair of the Advisory Committee, for his commitment and effective coordination of the Committee. We also thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work and commitment. We welcome the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraph 59 of the Secretary-General's report A/76/515.

5. Sierra Leone fully supports the objectives of the Programme of Assistance as espoused in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, and reaffirmed in subsequent related General Assembly resolutions.

6. We therefore welcome the activities highlighted in the report of 10 October 2022 under the Programme of Assistance covering the Regional Courses in International Law and the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Audiovisual Library, international law training materials, desktop publishing, dissemination and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. In this regard, we wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea ("DOALOS"), and we also warmly congratulate **Linda Bana** of the Republic of Ghana on being the recipient of the 2020 award.

7. The delegation of Sierra Leone takes note of the significant impact which the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to have on the implementation of activities of the Programme during the period under review. As we learn to live with COVID-19, the tools that have been developed should be enhanced to support particularly the dissemination function of the Programme.

8. Sierra Leone also welcomes the continued utilization of the Alumni network of participants to further promote greater understanding and interactive dialogue on contemporary international law issues, and commends the continued availability of the online repository of international law materials to the network.

Chair,

9. The delegation of Sierra Leone notes that the Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled to be held in 2021 could not be held as planned owing to the circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. We, however, welcome and commend the Codification Division for providing applicants with a remote self-paced learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity-building until the Regional Courses could next be held. We are concerned by the

disparity in the number of applications received for the Africa regional course, with 192 candidates, 146 men and only 46 women from 25 countries. We call on the Codification Division, the Advisory Committee and member States to examine ways to reduce this disparity.

11. We, however, welcome the online regional workshops on the peaceful settlement of international disputes for Asia-pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. For Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, we welcome the commendable distribution of participants, with 15 men and 19 women and 12 men and 27 women from the two regions respectively.
12. We welcome the appreciable distribution of participants for the Africa online regional workshop with 21 men and 15 women. We urge for continued work in achieving gender balance and equity, which may require a disproportionate higher number of women to achieve the balance.
13. Sierra Leone welcomes the holding of the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague from 4 July to 5 August 2022. We also welcome the distribution of the participants with 10 men and 11 women. Although no direct data was presented on the regional distribution, as was done for the number of applications, my delegation is satisfied with numbers for the selected participants based on the listing of their respective countries. The need to ensure

geographic and gender balance among the participants of the training programmes and fellowship remains a priority.

14. We call on the Codification Division to examine the issue of diversity in the identification of faculty members and joins the Advisory Committee in emphasizing the need to ensure diversity of legal traditions and gender balance among the faculty of the Programme of Assistance.
15. The delegation of Sierra Leone continues to reiterate our strong support for every opportunity for capacity building, training and skills management and the accessibility of much needed resources on international law, as capacity-development enables an informed approach to tackle emerging issues of interest to the international community.
16. We therefore note with appreciation that resources are continually being provided for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance and affirm our support to the Secretary-General's request for funding to be provided under the programme budget to undertake the activities specified in his report for the year 2023.
17. We extend our thanks and gratitude to the Member States and international organizations for their voluntarily contributions provided for the continued successful implementation of the

programme, and we continue to call for continuous sustainable financing through the regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States and international organizations in this regard.

18. To conclude, **Chair**, my delegation reaffirms the importance of the Programme of Assistance as a core activity of the United Nations since it was established by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965 (by resolution 2099), and the platform it has created in promoting a better understanding of international law to strengthen international peace and security, promote friendly relations and cooperation.

19. The Programme has also created the platform for the promotion of capacity building and the sharing of best practices on emerging global issues among States. Successful participants are provided with the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of international law, equipping them to address emerging global issues of concern to the international community with a view to developing strategies of effective collaboration and cooperation. We can only urge for the continued strong support for the Programme of Assistance.

20. I thank you.