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STATEMENT BY

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ON

AGENDA ITEM 76:

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

AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

**DURING THE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York
20th October, 2022

Chairperson,

Zambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the African Group, the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations for the exceptional work it has carried out in implementing the United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We further extend our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his stewardship, and to His Excellency Harold Adlai Agyeman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana, for his outstanding leadership as Chair of the 57th Session of the Advisory Committee, which took place on 4th October 2022. Please be assured that Zambia will continue to lend you its unwavering support.

Chairperson,

The Secretary-General's report A/77/515 highlights the successes that the United Nations has scored in its implementation of the Programme of Assistance. We are pleased to see that the programme budget for 2023 includes funding for the redeployment of the post of Principal Legal Officer (D-1) from the Codification Division to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. This may prove particularly useful, given that the goal is to provide more efficient managerial oversight over the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs related to the promotion and dissemination of international law, including those undertaken under the Programme of Assistance. Moreover, it is also intended to

enable the Office of Legal Affairs to better assist relevant stakeholders and respond to requests by Member States for legal technical assistance.

Chairperson,

One of humanity's major achievements over the last century has been the establishment of a multilateral global order based on an international application of the rule of law. In recent years, a new rules-based multilateral order tailored for the twenty-first century has sought to accommodate legitimate institutional variability and policy autonomy while upholding universal values. However, as legal experts we must always keep striving for excellence and sharing good practices. Let us never assume that we have reached the pinnacle of knowledge.

It is gratifying that the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs remained forward-looking and proceeded to design and deliver training sessions through virtual platforms, hence continuing to provide the much-needed knowledge to participants from across Africa and other regions.

Considering that the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have generally dissipated, my delegation wishes to earnestly encourage the United Nations to increase the frequency of traditional in-person training, as it accords participants rare opportunities for them to network and build long-lasting friendships and collaborations with professionals from other countries and regions—both in the public and private sectors. This further enables many of our legal experts to participate and acquire deeper knowledge in international law and its dynamics, in an ever-evolving international system. Thus, the blending of both in-person and online training sessions should be encouraged as it will widen the number of beneficiaries while keeping the costs at manageable levels.

Chairperson,

Zambia continues to strengthen its legal education curricula and to encourage its citizens to take international law courses in order to better understand and participate in the global arena. We are working to develop a cadre of lawyers who have a hands-on understanding of international public law, allowing them to effectively contribute to the development and codification of international public law, thereby achieving peace, socioeconomic transformation, and sustainable development.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to encourage training institutions and other entities involved in legal theory and expertise to collaborate and map out possible areas of cooperation and exchange programmes with Zambian training institutions as well as the Law Association of Zambia. Through such exchange programmes, we can 'cross-pollinate' our ideas and contribute to the wellbeing of the peoples of our respective countries.

Allow me to conclude, Chair, by thanking the Member States that continue to make in-kind and financial contributions, and we also urge others, including the private sector to lend additional support towards this vital Programme of Assistance.

I thank you.