



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

**By**

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**Counsellor**

**Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**at the Sixth Committee**

**on the Agenda item 78:**

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

**United Nations**

**New York**

**19 October 2023**

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

Mr. Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries Türkiye, North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, the potential candidate country Georgia, as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chair,

The European Union and its Member States believe that it is critical to continue advocating for an increased understanding and commitment to a multilateral rules-based order anchored in respect for international law. The United Nations Programme of Assistance provides the necessary opportunities and tools to strengthen such efforts, and thus remains greatly valued by the European Union.

While we applaud the swift and important digital transition the Programme underwent during COVID-19, in-person trainings offer unique advantages, such as promoting in-depth discussions and cooperation among participants. We thus welcome the resumption of in-person regional training programmes in 2023. Additionally, we are delighted that the International Law Fellowship Programme was held in person for the first time in the summer of 2022 and will continue to do so.

Both the training and the fellowship programmes significantly contribute to the education of leading legal minds and foster a shared understanding of the appreciation of international law and multilateralism. To increase the practical value of the regional training programmes we continue to advocate for the inclusion of discussions on contemporary issues related to international law.

It remains critical to ensure linguistic and geographical diversity as well as gender balance among participants and lectures. We thus welcome the increasingly visible gender balance in the application process for regional training programmes and the International Law Fellowship programme. Member States should continue to encourage women and individuals from all backgrounds to apply to the Programme's courses as this strengthens their ability to fully and equally participate in all levels of society.

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\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Moreover, while the number of the Programmes' online platforms user has grown exponentially, greater efforts could be placed into increasing the visibility of regional training programmes. Raising more awareness for the programmes through online campaigns on social media could increase application rates and, more importantly, diversity of applicants.

The on-line mini-series provide access to presentations by leading legal scholars on core topics of international law. They drive greater accessibility for all by providing information to users with basic or little knowledge of international law. To ensure even greater accessibility, we would recommend increasing the user-friendliness of online material, modernizing the programme's website and considering tools to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities.

Finally, we welcome that activities of the Programme are financed from the regular budget. We also commend all those who have provided voluntary contributions that continue to strengthen the Programme's efforts.

Mr. President,

The Programme has the potential to enhance current and future generations' understanding of international law and provide them with the tools to improve access to justice, equality and peace globally. The European Union and its Member States thus continue to support all the efforts of the Programme.

I thank you!