



PHILIPPINES

AS DELIVERED

STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item - 78: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
20 October 2023, Trusteeship Council
UN Headquarters New York

Mr. Chair.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered by Singapore on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement, and Cuba for the G77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the reporting period, as well as the activities planned for 2024 and the related administrative and financial implications as set out in A/78/514.

We express our deep appreciation to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for the continued implementation of the Programme in an efficient and professional manner.

Like many, our nationals have benefitted from and participated in various activities of the Programme of Assistance. It has helped in strengthening our capacities in international law and in the establishment of vital networks of contacts in the international law field.

As indicated in the report, during the relevant period, the Philippines participated in the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific held at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok. We thank the Government of Thailand for the continued support for this regional course. Over time, the course has raised national capacities in international law, contributing to a vibrant international law community in our region.

We also took part in the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague. We thank the Programme's partners, including The Hague Academy of International Law which has provided critical support for the Programme, benefiting many participants, including from developing states.

In this regard, we are pleased to be one of the many co-sponsors of the side event of Academy entitled "Peaceful Dispute Settlement: The Indispensable Courts and Courses of the Peace Palace" which will take place on Wednesday next week. We hope that delegations will attend this side event which commemorates the Centenary of The Hague Academy of International Law, from 1923-2023.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines notes with appreciation the increasing lectures and related legal materials on a broad range of topics of international law in the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law. We hope that the resources included in the programme budget providing for full-time positions will result in concrete outcomes for the further development, dissemination and maintenance of the Audiovisual Library. We hope that there could be more diversity in terms of the legal traditions, gender balance and academic and professional experts in relation to the lectures.

We hope that the efforts to promote broader linguistic diversity among the official languages of the United Nations and to record lecturers based elsewhere through an off-site recording mission, such as the one conducted in The Hague, could be sustained in the future. We recommend that such off-site recording missions be undertaken in other regions, at the sidelines of other international law meetings, as appropriate, for instance, the biennial meeting of the Asian Society of International Law.

We laud the efforts of the Codification Division in researching, collecting and preparing legal materials in hard copy, in consultation with the lecturers, for its international law training programmes, and support its continued efforts in desktop publishing to expedite the issuance of its legal publications for the use of international legal community. We see value of dissemination of legal publications and information through the Internet and other electronic media, while noting that hard copies remain useful for many developing states.

Finally, it is in recognition of the importance of the Program and its overall contribution to promoting and upholding the rule of law at the national and international levels that the Philippines commits to continue contributing resources, including to the voluntary trust funds. **END.**

