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**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE ON THE
TEACHING, STUDY, DISEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

PRESENTED BY

HAROLD ADLAI AGYEMAN
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

**DURING THE SIXTH COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF
THE AGENDA ITEM AT THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

19th October, 2023
Trusteeship Council Chamber,
United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour, once again, to address the Sixth Committee to report on the work of the fifty-eighth session of the Advisory Committee on the *United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law* that took place on 3rd October, 2023. I encourage delegations to refer to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document *No. A/78/514* for the full version of the Committee's report.
2. At the outset, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares for his personal dedication to the successful implementation of the activities outlined under the Programme of Assistance and his valuable contributions during the session of the Advisory Committee.
3. Pursuant to its mandate, the Committee reviewed the activities undertaken during the reporting period and took note of proposed activities for the year 2024, including the resulting administrative and financial implications.

Mr. Chairman

4. I am pleased to note that the Programme of Assistance continues to enjoy the overwhelming support of all members of the Committee with strong reaffirmations of the importance of the activities and resources provided under the programme to the realization of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.
5. The Committee took note of the implementation of the regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the International Law Fellowship. May I take this opportunity to reiterate the Committee's

appreciation to the host governments of Ethiopia, Thailand, Chile and the Netherlands for the valuable resources and courtesies extended towards the trainings.

6. It continues to be evident that the in-person training format which has been the traditional mode of delivery for the regional courses and the International Law Fellowship plays an important role in facilitating contact among experts and professionals involved in the affairs of State and invariably impacts the establishment and maintenance of friendly relations among states. Having regard however to the increasing relevance of ICT to the dissemination of international law, the Secretariat was also encouraged to draw on lessons learned during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic to reinforce its programmes.
7. Committee members once again expressed interest in having a balanced representation of the different legal traditions during the training programmes. Further calls were also made for the improvement of gender parity in the faculty and among participants.
8. In respect of the Audio-visual Library in international law, the Committee was informed that 32 (thirty-two) lectures were recorded during the reporting period having regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee on improving the gender balance and linguistic diversity of the lecturers, Proposals were made to expand the offerings of the Audio-visual Library which serves as an important tool for the dissemination of international law.
9. Calls were also made for the continuous enhancement of the website for the Audio-visual Library with the view to making it user-friendly. Further proposals were made to broaden the reach of international law resources using other online and social media platforms.

10. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the publication of the second edition of volume 25 of the *United Nations Legislative Series*; volume 26 of the *United Nations Legislative Series*; the 10th edition of *The Work of the International Law Commission*; and the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice* for the years 2018 to 2022.
11. It was also noted that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea awarded in 2020 and postponed due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic has now been undertaken.
12. Recommendations were also made for continuing cooperation with other regional international law institutions in respect of the activities outlined under the Programme of Assistance.
13. The Committee remained satisfied with the funding of the activities of the Programme from the regular budget of the Organization and stressed the need for additional voluntary contributions to support expansion and enhancement efforts. In this respect, I wish to re-iterate the Committee's appreciation for the contributions received from Austria, China, Czechia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and Slovakia.
14. Before bringing my report to a close, allow me to re-iterate the Committee's appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs for its commitment to further strengthening the Programme of Assistance by creating synergies across other capacity building programmes under the Office of Legal Affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

15. With the term of the current membership of the Advisory Committee coming to an end, I wish to express my profound appreciation to all the members who over years have contributed immensely to strengthening the Programme of Assistance. I look forward to working closely with the new members to be appointed by the Sixth Committee during the 78th Session.

16. Ms. Khalilah Hackman, the legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ghana would be introducing the zero draft at the close of the debate with the intention of undertaking in-person consultations at scheduled times to be indicated by the Secretariat. We look forward to your distinguished participations in the consultations and count on your cooperation.

I thank you for the kind attention.