



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

(Agenda item 78)

Mr./Madam Chair,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and would like to offer a few additional remarks in its national capacity.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Programme in 2023 and welcome the recommendations contained therein for the next years of the Programme. We are pleased to see that the impacts of COVID-19 on the Programme have now been mitigated.

The Programme is an active and widely recognized contributor in promoting better knowledge of International Law, as an instrument to establish "*(...) the conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained*", as set out in the preamble of the United



Nations Charter. Past and current events have shown that this is of paramount importance and should be always respected. We are pleased to see that the Programme continues playing a crucial role towards that end.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The Programme continues trying to give answer to the pressing need for in-depth knowledge on new topics and subjects and to the consequent ever-increasing demand for training on and access to resources on International Law.

Its recurring projects such as the International Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, allow many, mostly from developing countries, to have access to training or to resources in International Law.

That notwithstanding, and though there has been some progress towards that end, States still need to continue improving awareness of the Programme and continue their work disseminating information on the Programme in their countries, namely in universities and their civil services, so that students, young scholars and young professionals know of its existence, as well as of its initiatives and resources.



Mr./Madam Chair,

Portugal would like to commend the outstanding work of the Office of Legal Affairs, including its the Codification Division, on their activities concerning the dissemination of International Law and in their efforts in maintaining and expanding, at a relatively low cost, the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

We also wish to acknowledge its efforts to ensure the administrative and financial efficiency of these activities.

Mr./Madam Chair,

As shown by the COVID-19 pandemic, reliable distance learning and remote training tools can have a positive impact in the future of individuals, communities, and nations, bridging inequality gaps and, in our view, allowing more people to have access to training and resources in International Law. In our view, and we should strive to continue making good use of them in the future.

In particular, the Audiovisual Library is an important useful tool for the study and dissemination of International Law at the global scale, which strives for digital inclusion. Indeed, the content available in the



Audiovisual Library covers all relevant areas of International Law and aims to be linguistically and geographically inclusive.

Mr./Madam Chair,

As with so many other UN initiatives, the Programme will always struggle with funding. We welcome the fact that the Programme has once again been included in the Member State-financed regular budget of the United Nations, but we also acknowledge that this funding alone cannot cover all the Programme's financial needs. Voluntary contributions offer added support to the Programme.

Moreover, Portugal argues that it is always useful to debate new and creative funding mechanisms, so that the Programme can fulfil its mission in a financially sustainable way. As in previous years, we would like to point out that establishing partnerships with NGOs, Universities, Research Institutes or even law firms might grant additional support.

Mr./Madam Chair,

As a member yet of the Advisory Committee, Portugal would like to conclude its statement on this agenda item by reiterating its pledge towards the Programme and reaffirming its commitment to continuing working in the promotion and dissemination of International Law as



a means to build a fair, free and peaceful international society, as envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.