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**Statement
by
Ms. Hataipat Sresthabutr
Second Secretary
before the Sixth Committee
of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 78
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching,
Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation
of International Law (Agenda item 78)**

New York, 19 October 2023

Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of **Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, of Cuba on behalf of the Group of 77 and China,** and of **Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.**

2. **The importance of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law,** especially for **developing countries,** cannot be overstated.

3. The significance of the Programme of Assistance – through the fellowship, courses, and online resources – has touched and changed the lives of many – the fellow who wants to sit in the Peace Palace as a judge, shaping international law; the curious student who will one day walk these halls, putting principles to action; and the wider public, who chooses to be informed of the impact that our policies have on them. By paving the road to navigate the often-murky waters of international law, **the Programme of Assistance** sheds light on the rules and principles governing our system, **strengthens the rule of law at the national and international levels,** fosters friendly relations, and contributes to our efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

4. With this in mind, Thailand reiterates its full support for **the United Nations Programme of Assistance** and wishes to highlight the following four points.

5. **First,** Thailand supports and very much appreciates the contributions by the **UN Regional Courses in International Law.** The Regional Courses provide an invaluable opportunity for professionals from developing countries from across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean to learn, network, and share best practices on international law, including with leading scholars and practitioners. Such opportunity does not come easy in a developing country.

6. For our part, Thailand is proud to contribute to this very important activity. We have **co-hosted the UN Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific,** and we are honored to co-host it again this year, in an in-person format, between 13 November and 6 December. Indeed,

the Regional Course has contributed greatly to increasing the region's role in international law and its development, and **we stand ready to continue this partnership with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs** for years to come.

7. **Second**, Thailand wishes to commend the work by the **Codification Division** in improving the **Audiovisual Library of International Law** and making podcast channels available. These online resources are vital to the success of the Programme of Assistance in reaching the audience far and wide, thus fulfilling its objective in disseminating and strengthening the wider appreciation of international law.

8. **Third**, as international law evolves to keep pace with the modern world, so must its dissemination. Thailand **strongly encourages the use of technology and the internet** to disseminate knowledge of international law across the globe. While the benefits of in-person training are irreplaceable, we must not forget the merits of online training for remote capacity-building. This way, we promote **inclusive access to knowledge** so that **no one is left behind**.

9. **Fourth**, Thailand appreciates and respects the efforts undertaken by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. We are privileged to maintain a seat at the meeting of the Advisory Committee as an observer. Considering that there is an increased interest among Member States to contribute to the UN Programme of Assistance, **the Advisory Committee could benefit from active participation from an enlarged membership**.

Mr. Chair,

10. If international law is the bastion for conducting international affairs, then knowledge is the brick that builds the bastion. Thailand believes that **the Programme of Assistance is one such invaluable building block that all countries, especially developing countries, need**. We are proud to have done our part, and stand ready to continue working with fellow members of the United Nations to support the UN Programme of Assistance for the promotion of the rule of law and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
