



Sixth Committee
United Nations General Assembly 78th Session

Statement of Ireland on Agenda Item 87:

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

Delivered by James Kirk

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Chair,

1. Ireland is grateful to the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.
2. Ireland thanks the Advisory Committee for assisting the Secretary General in the exercise of the functions entrusted to him by the General Assembly in relation to the Programme.
3. We note that although the Programme is funded by the UN's regular budget, it is clear from the Secretary General's report that voluntary contributions are also needed. Ireland therefore strongly encourages all Member States to consider providing financial support to the Programme.

Chair,

4. A commitment to international law is enshrined in the Irish Constitution and is a core principle of Irish foreign policy. Ireland believes that better knowledge of international law can assist in pursuing the principles and purposes of the United Nations, most notably the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among states.
5. It is for this reason that Ireland is a committed supporter of the Programme of Assistance, and acknowledges the Programme's role as a core function of the United Nations. Ireland is pleased to support the Programme through our recurrent national voluntary contributions to the Programme's various funds.
6. I would like to highlight four of the Programme's activities to which Ireland has contributed this year.

7. First, Ireland particularly values the work of the **UN Regional Courses in International Law**. These courses are an important resource for students from developing countries and can strengthen and enhance national capacities in international law. They provide a solid structure for young professionals to develop their legal knowledge and to build a network of contacts that can provide mutually beneficial opportunities during their careers.
8. Secondly, the **United Nations International Law Fellowship Programme** in The Hague provides valuable training on a broad range of core topics of international law, while also promoting the sharing of experiences and ideas between legal professionals, in particular from developing countries and countries with emerging economies.
9. Thirdly, Ireland would like to commend the contribution of the **Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea** to enhancing specialised knowledge of oceans and maritime law.
10. Finally, Ireland highlights the contribution of the **United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law**. This invaluable resource extends the reach and scope of the Programme of Assistance through its series of high quality and informative lectures.
11. Ireland notes the immense content of the Library and acknowledges the ongoing efforts to broaden the linguistic and geographical diversity of the contributors to it. Ireland values the development of a modern, user-friendly website, to showcase the extent of the Library. An improved website will encourage greater use of this innovative tool, and allow for the dissemination of its content to a wider audience.
12. Ireland is pleased to have made voluntary contributions to these initiatives of the UN Programme of Assistance during the reporting period, and remains strongly committed to its valuable work.
13. Thank you.