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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-NINTH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1st November, 2024
Trusteeship Council Chamber,
United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the floor.

1. I have the honour, once again, to address the Sixth Committee and report on the work of the fifty-ninth session of the Advisory Committee on the *United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law* held on the morning of 3rd October, 2024. I encourage delegations to refer to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document **A/79/496** for the full version of the Committee's report.
2. As indicated in the report, during the session, the Committee expressed its strong support for the Programme of Assistance, as well as its deep concern at the impact of the liquidity situation of the Organization on the Programme and its activities. In that regard, the Advisory Committee urged the Secretariat to strive for the full implementation of the Programme's activities in the future.
3. Pursuant to its mandate, the Advisory Committee reviewed the activities undertaken during the reporting period and took note of proposed activities for the year 2025, including the resulting administrative and financial implications.
4. The Programme of Assistance continues to enjoy the overwhelming support of all members of the Committee who alluded to its intrinsic value to the realization of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, as well as to its contribution to international peace and security, and to promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States.

5. In my remarks to the Committee, I underscored the utmost importance of continuing education in international law at this time of our global history where the headwinds of unilateralism threaten to dismantle the established norms and values that have held together our international order over the past 79 years. The Programme of Assistance, in our view, is important for enhancing the legal capacities of national experts and more so, for strengthening our collective commitments to peace and development.
6. The Committee welcomed that the four in-person training programmes conducted under the mandate of the Programme of Assistance were held again during the reporting period at their usual venues. While recognizing the efforts of the Office in ensuring gender and regional balance among participants and lecturers of the training programmes, the Committee underscored the importance of diversity in the languages and legal traditions as well as gender balance, and welcomed the commitments made by the Secretariat in this regard. Similarly, wider geographic representation and gender balance among the participants of the training programmes were emphasized. Calls were also made to increase the number of fellowships and to ensure space for self-funded participants at the training programmes.
7. In respect of the Audiovisual Library in international law, the Committee regretted that the Secretariat was not able to record lectures during the reporting period. The Committee highlighted the importance of this resource for the dissemination of international law and, in that regard, proposals were made to expand the linguistic diversity of the Library and to explore the use of established and emerging technologies to curate and produce audiovisual content. Calls were also made for the enhancement of the website of the

Audiovisual Library to make it more user-friendly, as well as for its effective dissemination, including by cooperating with academic institutions, expanding the use of social media, and implementing new technologies for the delivery of content.

8. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the publications that were issued during this reporting period, as well as those that are in preparation. In that regard, the Committee welcomed efforts towards disseminating information and materials in international law, particularly in printed format, and suggested exploring further opportunities for dissemination.
9. It was also noted that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea was awarded in 2024 and is currently being undertaken.
10. The Committee expressed its support for the funding of the activities of the Programme from the regular budget of the Organization, while also highlighting the importance of voluntary contributions for expanding and enhancing the activities. In this respect, I wish to re-iterate the Committee's appreciation for the contributions received from Austria, China, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Qatar, Singapore and Spain.
11. The Committee also acknowledges the in-kind contributions of Member States, the African Union, the International Court of Justice, UN Regional Commissions, and The Hague Academy of International Law. The Committee is particularly grateful to the host countries of the training programmes for their organisational support which have always been vital to the success of the programmes.

12. Before bringing my report to a close, allow me to re-iterate Ghana's long-standing commitment to the realization of the objectives of the Programme of Assistance and our chairmanship of the Advisory Committee. We highly value the support and cooperation demonstrated over the years by all member States and remain committed in our service.
13. Mr. Solomon Korbieh, 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 participation in the consultations and count on your cooperation.

I thank you for the kind attention.