



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

MR. GEORGE SHADRACK KAMANDA
FIRST SECRETARY

at the 79th 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”**

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Chair,

1. The Sierra Leone delegation aligns this statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the African Group, the Group of 77 & China, and the **Islamic Republic of Iran** on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. We thank the Secretary-General for his report **A/79/496** on the agenda item "*United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law,*" which provides information concerning the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during the reporting period, as well as the activities planned for 2025, and the related administrative and financial implications.

3. We acknowledge the commendable work of the Office of Legal Affairs, and in particular the Codification Division and its committed staff, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Assistance in carrying the activities of the **United Nations Regional Courses in International Law** and the **International Law Fellowship Programme**, preparing and issuing publications, developing and maintaining the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and the website of the Programme of Assistance. We also acknowledge the contribution of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (“DOALOS”).

4. We appreciate the Permanent Representative of Ghana, **His Excellency Harold Adlai Agyeman**, as Chair of the Advisory Committee, for his commitment and effective coordination of the Committee. We also thank the Committee members for their hard work and dedication.

We welcome the committee's recommendations and look forward to their implementation.

5. We continue to support and see merit in the objectives of the Programme of Assistance and urge strongly for the necessary and much-needed financial support required to carry out its programs and activities. We note and welcome the activities carried out in the year under review.

Chair,

6. The assistance programme is pivotal in promoting understanding and respect for international law among member states and global citizens in a world of challenging global issues. It fosters an inclusive environment for legal knowledge sharing, enabling a platform for individuals and institutions to be fully equipped

to navigate complex legal frameworks that govern international relations.

7. We, however, express concern over the lack of funds to ensure that the activities and programmes highlighted were carried out fully and successfully due to the UN's dire liquidity and financial situation and its significant impact on the full implementation of the Program activities this year.

8. We, therefore, note with appreciation that resources were provided for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in the year under review and affirm our support to the Secretary-General's request for funding to be provided under the programme budget to undertake the activities specified in his report for the year 2025.

9. We thank the Member States and international organisations for their voluntary contributions, which have

enabled the continued successful implementation of the programme and reiterate our call for continuous sustainable financing through the regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States and international organisations in this regard.

10. For this period, we note the gender disparity of the applications received for the Regional Course in international law in the Asia-Pacific and African region and encourage more information dissemination and awareness of the program and its benefits to female recipients. The gap is particularly wide for Africa and requires broader awareness and publication. We appreciate that the fellowship was conducted for 21 participants, noting the delay in its implication due to financial and budgetary constraints. Regrettably, the valuable contribution and value of the audiovisual library was not implemented this year, and there was no addition

of a new lecture series due to the unavailability of funds. We commend the innovative efforts employed to facilitate easy and wide access to the content available and the use of social media and other mediums to address this gap.

11. We congratulate **Ms. Maria Mercedes Arevalo Aranaga** of the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** for winning the 2024 Hamilton Shirley Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

12. To conclude, Mr. **Chair**, my delegation reaffirms the importance of the Programme of Assistance as a core activity of the United Nations since its establishment. The Programme encourages rich and insightful interactions between academic institutions, legal practitioners, and students to engage with international law, enhancing its application and effectiveness. It also upholds the rule of

law, promotes human rights, resolves disputes peacefully, strengthens international peace and security, and promotes friendly relations and cooperation.

Thank you.

