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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



STATEMENT BY JOHN PANGIPITA, COUNSELOR PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE 79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON AGENDA ITEM 78

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

01 NOVEMBER, 2024

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the Statements delivered by Uganda on behalf of the African Group, G77 + China and the Statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and wishes to add few remarks in its national capacity.
2. We welcome the Secretary-General's Report contained in document **A/79/496** on the activities of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law for the period 2023 and the activities planned for 2025. My delegation expresses gratitude to H.E Ambassador Harold Agyeman, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN and Chair of the Advisory Committee, for his dedication and commitment on the work of the Programme of Assistance.
3. Tanzania commends the Office of Legal Affairs, particularly the Codification Division and Division for Ocean Affairs and the law of the Sea for the efforts undertaken during the reported period in response to the increasing demand for international law training and research materials in both developing and developed countries.

Mr. Chair

4. An increased understanding and wider appreciation of international law is vital for promoting orderly interactions between States, strengthening peace and security and furthering the rule of law at international and national levels. For several decades, the Programme of Assistance has played a significant role in training government officials and other stakeholders in international law, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law. This programme is invaluable to all states in terms of building national capacities in international law.

5. The high volume of applications to this prestigious international law fellowship program every year is a testament to the quality of this Programme. However, despite its relevance and crucial importance, the programmes faces liquidity constraints, thus limiting the number of participants. While we commend the Secretary-General for his ongoing support and appreciate the generous financial contributions from member states, Tanzania strongly encourages all member states to extend their financial and material support to both regional courses and the International Law fellowships.

Mr. Chair

7. Given the substantial benefits attributed to the Programme, the lack of sufficient funding is a shared concern of many delegations. While noting with appreciation the continued in-person regional courses in International Law, we are concerned with the small number of participants and timeframe allocated for regional courses in and 2023 2024. As evidenced in the report, the Regional Course for Africa was held for **three weeks** from **22nd February to 15th March May 2024**, with twenty-four participants.

8. We emphasize the necessity and importance of conducting the Regional Course for **four weeks** in 2025 and subsequent years. Additionally, increasing the number of fellowships provided under the regular budget is crucial to meeting the strong demand for international law training. We also propose that the Secretariat consider increasing the number of self-funded participants.

Mr. Chair

9. The liquidity constraint has impacted not only on the in-person participation but also on the audiovisual library of the United Nations. Of late, the Audiovisual Library (AVL), which provides countless users around the world access to a wealth of international law-related materials via the internet, is also in danger of being discontinued if regular funding is not provided. During the reporting period, liquidity constraints hindered the ability of the Secretariat to hire video producers and webmasters, resulting in no new recorded lectures, with only eight previously recorded lectures added to the series.

10. This poses significant risks to the effectiveness and achievement of the Programme's objectives. As committed members of the United Nations, we must explore collaborative avenues to ensure funding for the Programme of Assistance. It has become evident that reliance solely on voluntary contributions is not a sustainable approach; thus, we must seek more consistent and reliable funding sources for all activities associated with this Programme.

11. The activities of the Programme, as summarized in the Secretary General's report, deserve the support of Member States. We fully endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding the continuation of the Programme in 2025 and urge full financial support from the UN's regular budget.

Mr. Chair

12. The responsibility for teaching, study, dissemination, and wider appreciation of international law cannot rest solely on the shoulders of the Secretary-General. It requires concerted support and collaboration of like-minded regional and international organizations. With this understanding, my delegation would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the African Institute of International Law for its remarkable endeavours in advancing the teaching and dissemination of international law of relevance to Africa.

13. Since its establishment in 2012, and with the endorsement of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Institute has significantly contributed to the teaching and dissemination of International Law across the African region by conducting workshops and seminars that have greatly enriched many Government experts understanding of international law. This year, the Institute organized several noteworthy workshops, including the Summer Academy on The Continental Shelf in April 2024 and the Kilimanjaro Summer Academy on African Union Law and the Public Law of Africa in August 2024, both held in Arusha, Tanzania.

14. For the Institute to continue its vital work and expand its support in the dissemination of international law, generous financial and material support from the

international community is imperative. As the host state of the African Institute of International Law, Tanzania commends all states that have thus far extended their financial and material support to the Institute and encourages more cooperation and support from all member states to further advance the Institute's important initiatives.

15. The role of international law education in Africa, home to most LDCs, cannot be overemphasized. Within this common understanding, my delegation argues to the Secretary-General to support the Institute as an equal partner in the teaching, study, and dissemination of international law, particularly in the African region.

Mr. Chair

16. As I conclude, I wish to note that, more than 50 years after its establishment, the Programme continues to be relevant in furthering the objectives of the United Nations by training generations of specialists, particularly those from developing countries, in the field of international law. We remain hopeful that these essential activities within the UN Program of Assistance will be sustained, allowing future generations of legal practitioners in international law to benefit immensely.

Thank you for your kind attention.