



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 October 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Agenda item 80

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

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/62. It covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the biennium 2008-2009 and provides guidelines and recommendations for the execution of the Programme for the biennium 2010-2011.



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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 62/62, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out in 2008 and 2009 the activities specified in the report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law submitted at its sixty-second session (A/62/503). In paragraph 22 of resolution 62/62, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the Programme in 2008-2009 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme, to submit recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme in subsequent years.

2. The present report covers the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2008 and 2009 in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The report gives an account of the activities performed by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and of those in which it has participated under the Programme. It also provides a description of relevant activities undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

II. Implementation of the Programme during the biennium 2008-2009

A. Office of Legal Affairs

3. The activities of the Office of Legal Affairs are reflected in the revised Internet page on international law (<http://www.un.org/law>) of the Office, which was designed by the Department of Public Information in consultation with the Office. The Department launched the new international law web page, as approved by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, in 2009. The websites of the Office referred to in the present report, as listed in annex I, may be accessed through this web page.

4. The Office of Legal Affairs received and assigned interns and externs to participate in the work of its divisions. The Office selects interns and externs, arranges for the duration and type of their training and assigns them to projects taking into account the needs of the Office as well as the particular interests of the interns or externs. Interns and externs bear all their own financial expenses.

1. Codification Division

(a) Activities

5. The Codification Division is responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance. The Division performs various functions, such as the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General and servicing the Advisory Committee and the Sixth Committee on the related agenda item. It also maintains the website on the Programme of Assistance.

International Law Fellowship Programme

6. The Codification Division is responsible for the International Law Fellowship Programme, including the development of the curricula and the selection of lecturers and participants. The fellows attend courses at The Hague Academy of International Law and special seminars organized by the Division. The Hague Academy provides essential support for the fellowship programme by charging reduced tuition rate for the fellows and providing a seminar room free of charge. Study visits are also arranged for the participants. At the request of the Division, UNITAR assists with the administration of the fellowship programme.

7. The International Law Fellowship Programme provides the most comprehensive international law training for lawyers from developing countries under the Programme of Assistance. It is funded by the regular budget. In recent years, the number of fellows has decreased owing to increasing costs combined with a zero growth budget. Consequently, the Codification Division has initiated a comprehensive review of the costs associated with the Fellowship Programme with a view to identifying cost-saving measures that could be undertaken without jeopardizing the high quality of the Programme.

8. In paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 62/62, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to award a number of international law fellowships in 2008 and 2009, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded at the request of Governments of developing countries.

9. The International Law Fellowship Programme was held in The Hague from 7 July to 15 August 2008 and from 6 July to 14 August 2009, respectively.¹

10. In 2008, 15 fellows² (8 men and 7 women) participated in the programme from the following countries: Botswana, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Gambia, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Saint Lucia and South Africa. In addition, self-funded participants attended (4 women) from Bahrain, South Africa, Turkey and the United Nations Development Programme (Sri Lanka).

11. The Hague Academy lectures included: "International law and the dialectic between rigourism and flexibility" (A. Mahiou, Director of Research Emeritus, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Aix-en-Provence, France); "Contemporary forms of slavery" (E. Decaux, Professor, University of Paris II); "Promoting democracy through international organizations with special reference to Central Asia" (R. Müllerson, Professor, King's College, London); "Relations between universal organizations and regional organizations" (L. Boisson De Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva); "The emancipation of the individual from the State under international law" (G. Hafner, Professor, University of Vienna); "Disputed islands in the South China Sea and South-east Asia under international law" (R. Pangalangan, Professor, University of the Philippines, Manila); and

¹ The fellowship was conducted in English in 2008 and 2009 to align the language of the seminars with the Hague Academy lectures. The 2010 fellowship will be conducted in French.

² A total of 418 applications from 109 countries were received. Three fellows (from Samoa, Surinam and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) cancelled for personal reasons and could not be replaced due to late notice.

“International humanitarian law: theory and practice” (D. Thürer, Professor, University of Zurich).

12. The special seminars included: “International criminal law” (S. Williams, Professor, York University); “International humanitarian law” (A. La Rosa, Legal Counsellor, International Committee of the Red Cross); “The international protection of human rights” (M. Pinto, Professor, University of Buenos Aires); “International refugee law” (G. S. Goodwin-Gill, Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford); “International trade law/the multilateral trading system” (G. Wang, Dean and Professor of Chinese and Comparative Law, City University of Hong Kong); “International law of the sea” (B. Oxman, R. A. Hausler Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law); “International environmental law” (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva); “International investment law” (M. Sornarajah, Professor, National University of Singapore); and “Law of treaties” (G. Hafner, Professor, University of Vienna).

13. In 2009, 16 fellows³ (9 men, 7 women) participated in the Programme from the following countries: Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of),⁴ Cape Verde, Fiji, Jordan, Lesotho, Liberia, Samoa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda. Twelve fellows were financed from the regular budget and 4 fellows were financed from voluntary contributions. In addition, self-funded participants (1 man, 5 women) were selected from Namibia,⁵ Oman, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

14. The Hague Academy lectures included: “The impact of human rights on international law” (B. Simma, Judge, International Court of Justice); “Retroactivity in public international law” (M. Kohen, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva); “The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties: 40 years after” (M. Villiger, Judge, European Court of Human Rights); “Failed States: construction and reconstruction of States in international law” (G. Cahin, Professor, University of Rennes I); “The role of judicial procedures in the process of the pacific settlement of international disputes” (M. Kawano, Professor, Waseda University, Tokyo); “International disputes relating to land boundaries in the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice” (A. Abou-El-Wafa, Professor, Cairo University); and “A new public international law regime for foreign direct investment” (J. Alvarez, Professor, Columbia University, New York).

15. The special seminars included: “International humanitarian law” (A. La Rosa, Legal Counsellor, International Committee of the Red Cross); “International criminal law” (R. O’Keefe, Deputy Director, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law/Senior Lecturer, University of Cambridge); “International environmental law” (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva); “International trade law/trade dispute settlement” (G. Wang, Dean and Professor of Chinese and Comparative Law, City University of Hong Kong);⁶ “International investment law” (B. Juratowitch, Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer); “Law of the sea” (T. Treves, Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and Professor, University of Milan); “The international protection of human rights” (C. Rozakis,

³ A total of 269 persons from 125 countries and organizations submitted applications.

⁴ This fellow was unable to complete the programme for personal reasons.

⁵ The candidate from Namibia was unable to participate.

⁶ The City University of Hong Kong financed the travel costs for Professor Wang.

Vice-President, European Court of Human Rights);⁷ “International refugee law” (M. Ladic, Refugee Status Determination Field Adviser, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees); and “Regional economic integration agreements” (D. McRae, Professor, University of Ottawa, and Member, International Law Commission).

16. In 2008 and 2009, study visits were arranged for the fellows to the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Regional courses

17. The Codification Division is responsible for organizing regional courses in international law. These regional courses provide training by leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core subjects of international law as well as specific subjects of particular interest to developing countries in a given region.

18. Despite the increasing demand for international law training, no regional courses were held because of a lack of financial resources and because no Member State was available to serve as host country in 2008-2009 period. The Codification Division is considering options for revitalizing this important training activity.

United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

19. The Codification Division is responsible for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. The Library was created in response to the increasing demand for international law training, in terms of both the number of individuals requesting such training and the increasingly broad sectors of national society represented by the lawyers requesting this training.

20. The Library is a major undertaking aimed at providing high quality international law training by eminent scholars and practitioners from different countries and legal systems on virtually every subject of international law. The newly revitalized Library provides the United Nations with the unprecedented capacity to provide high-quality training at a relatively low cost on a global scale. Any individual or institution anywhere in the world may access the Library free of charge via the Internet. Less than one year after the Library website was launched, it has already been accessed in more than 175 countries and territories reflecting 70 different languages.

21. The Library consists of three pillars: the lecture series, the historic archives and the research library.

22. The lecture series contains over 150 lectures by prominent international law scholars and practitioners from different countries and legal systems on a broad

⁷ Vice-President Rozakis was unable to participate at the last minute. Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the International Court of Justice and Professor Nico Schrijver of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University delivered lectures on human rights.

range of subjects of international law.⁸ In addition, 20 of these lectures have been interpreted into the official languages of the United Nations with a special grant from Germany. The Codification Division is responsible for the substantive and technical aspects of the lectures series, including developing the content of the lecture series; practical arrangements with lecturers, interpreters and recording facilities; audiovisual recording and technical editing of the lectures and interpretations; and storage and preservation of audiovisual materials. The lecture series is partially funded by a special grant from Japan.

23. The historic archives contain introductory notes by leading authorities on significant legal instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as procedural histories, related documents and archival audiovisual materials prepared by the Codification Division. The historic archives contain entries for 32 legal instruments covering the period from 1945 to 2005, including multilateral treaties as well as General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Entries for an additional 44 instruments are in progress. The preservation of unique archival audiovisual materials is partially funded by a special grant from the United Nations Foundation.

24. The research library provides an extensive online library consisting of: (a) treaties; (b) jurisprudence; (c) publications and documents; and (d) scholarly writings. The United Nations has concluded an agreement with W. S. Hein, proprietor of "HeinOnline", to provide free access to scholarly writings (books and articles) selected by the Codification Division or by faculty members of the Audiovisual Library (lecturers and note writers).

25. The Codification Division receives essential cooperation from the Department of Public Information, including the United Nations webcast studio and the Multimedia Resources Unit (audio, photo and video libraries), as well as the audio archives of the Department of Management.

26. As noted during the presentation of the pilot project and the launch of the Audiovisual Library in 2007 and 2008, respectively, the Library cannot be maintained or further developed based solely on the existing resources of the Codification Division. Requests for additional resources in terms of two associate experts (1 Professional and 1 technical expert) have been unsuccessful. Owing to financial constraints, the Department of Public Information is no longer able to provide the camera operator and audiovisual editor required for this project, which has created the need for a second technical expert. The Division utilizes the assistance of interns, which is critical for this project.

27. The Audiovisual Library was created and developed with voluntary contributions (see para. 69). A number of Member States have expressed the view to the Secretariat that the Library is a core activity of the United Nations that should be placed on a solid foundation for the present as well as the future by means of

⁸ These lectures have been recorded at United Nations Headquarters, New York; the United Nations Office at Geneva; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Columbia University, New York; Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.; the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento; the Lauterpacht Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China; the National University of Singapore; the Seoul National University; the United Nations University; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, The Hague.

funding under the regular budget and have requested that their view be conveyed to the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

(b) Publications

28. The Codification Division is responsible for the preparation of numerous legal publications. Publications issued in the period 2008-2009 are indicated below:

(a) *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*: the 2000 *Yearbook* (Arabic), 2001 *Yearbook* (English, French, Russian and Spanish), 2002 *Yearbook* (Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish), 2004 *Yearbook* (Chinese) and 2005 *Yearbook* (English) have been issued. In addition, the 2006 *Yearbook* (English) will be issued in 2009 and the 2007 *Yearbook* will be submitted for publication;

(b) *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*: volumes 27 and 28 were issued and volumes 26 and 29 are in progress;

(c) *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*: the Secretariat continued its efforts to reduce the backlog in these publications in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 62/69 and 63/127. The status of these publications is set out in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/64/125);

(d) *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*: the 1994 *Yearbook*, volumes I and II (part two) (Chinese); 1996 *Yearbook*, volume II (part one) (Arabic, English, Russian and Spanish); 1997 *Yearbook*, volume II (part one) (Arabic, English, Russian and Spanish); 1998 *Yearbook*, volume II (part one) (English and Russian); 1999 *Yearbook*, volume II (part one) (English and Russian); 2001 *Yearbook*, volume II (part two) (Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish); and 2002 *Yearbook*, volume I (Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish), volume II (part one) (French) and volume II (part two) (Arabic, English, French and Russian) were issued. A Trust Fund was established in 2008 to eliminate the backlog of the *Yearbook* pursuant to resolution 62/66. The Secretary-General welcomes with appreciation the pledge made by Sweden in 2009 to the Trust Fund (\$10,000);

(e) *The Work of the International Law Commission*, 7th edition, volumes I and II, were issued in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian (vol. II) and Spanish. In addition, the Russian volume I version is in progress;

(f) *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*: the third addendum covering the period 2003-2007 was issued in English. The other language versions are in progress;

(g) *International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism*: a new edition, prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was issued in English and French. The other official language versions are in progress.

(c) Dissemination

29. In 1998, the Codification Division created its first website as a means of expanding the dissemination of information on international law on a global scale via the Internet. The Division currently maintains 19 websites relating to the

codification and progressive development of international law, the Programme of Assistance and legal publications, namely:

1. Codification of international law
2. Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
3. International Law Commission
4. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
5. Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
6. Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations
7. Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996
8. Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property
9. Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings
10. Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel
11. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
12. Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
13. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law
14. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*
15. *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*
16. *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*
17. Diplomatic conferences (official records of proceedings)
18. *United Nations Reports of International Arbitral Awards*
19. United Nations legal publications portal
30. Four of these websites were created in the period 2008-2009: (a) *United Nations Reports of International Arbitral Awards*, covering such awards from the late eighteenth century to the twenty-first century; (b) the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*, including legal opinions since 1963; (c) United Nations diplomatic conferences, containing the *travaux préparatoires* of legal instruments adopted on the basis of drafts prepared by the International Law Commission; and (d) the United Nations legal publications portal, containing, inter alia, a global search feature by keyword or sentence and by full text.
31. Finally, the Codification Division contributes published United Nations legal opinions to the Global Legal Information Network. The Network is a public

database of laws, regulations, judicial decisions and other complementary legal sources contributed by governmental agencies and international organizations, which aims to satisfy the need of governmental organs, during the law-making process, to have knowledge of the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions.

2. Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

(a) Activities

32. Owing to insufficient funding, the twenty-second Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Award⁹ could not be presented and applications for the twenty-third (2008) and twenty-fourth (2009) Fellowship Award were not solicited. Member States have been informed of the situation and encouraged to make contributions to continue the programme.

(b) Publications

33. During the period under review, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea published the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, Nos. 63 to 70; *Law of the Sea Information Circular*, Nos. 25 to 29; and *Training Manual for Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles and for Preparation of Submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf*.

(c) Dissemination

34. The website of the Division provides information on almost all aspects of oceans and the law of the sea, including:

(a) The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, including documentation related to the Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the informal consultations of States parties to the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement and the Review Conference on the Fish Stocks Agreement;

(b) The agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea” of the General Assembly, including the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, and documents and information related to the regular process for global reporting on and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects;

(c) The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;

(d) Dispute settlement issues, especially concerning the choice of procedure under article 287 of the 1982 Convention and declarations made under article 298, lists of arbitrators and conciliators and experts;

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 36/79.

(e) The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

(f) Texts of maritime boundary delimitation treaties and of national legislation concerning maritime zones;

(g) Capacity-building and training, including the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, the technical cooperation trust fund established on the basis of an agreement between the United Nations and the Nippon Foundation, and the trust funds related to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the consultative process and the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme;

(h) Extensive lists of documents and publications aimed at a better understanding of the legal regime contained in the 1982 Convention.

3. International Trade Law Division

(a) Activities

35. The activities conducted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and its secretariat, the International Trade Law Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, in connection with the Programme of Assistance, are designed primarily to promote the harmonization and unification of international trade law by disseminating information on the texts resulting from the work of UNCITRAL among Government officials, judges, lawyers and scholars, particularly from developing countries.

36. UNCITRAL, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 60/20, 61/32, 62/64 and 63/120, continued with its initiative to expand, through its secretariat, its technical assistance and cooperation programme (see A/CN.9/675). It organized activities in several developing countries with the objective of assisting them in assessing their needs in the modernization of their legislation on international trade law and in adopting and implementing UNCITRAL texts, and participated in activities organized or coordinated by other organizations. In addition, members of the UNCITRAL secretariat participated as speakers in a number of seminars and courses organized and funded by other institutions.

(b) Publications

37. During the period under review, the Division published the Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) abstracts Nos. 75-83; the new quarterly CLOUT Bulletin¹⁰ and a CLOUT information brochure; the revised *UNCITRAL Digest of Case Law on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods*;¹¹ a booklet reproducing the 1985 *UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration with amendments as adopted in 2006*;¹² a booklet reproducing the *Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral*

¹⁰ The CLOUT Bulletin also offers a brief summary of recent UNCITRAL technical assistance activities.

¹¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.V.15.

¹² *Ibid.*, E.08.V.4.

Awards (New York, 1958) in the six United Nations official languages;¹³ *Promoting confidence in electronic commerce: legal issues on international use of electronic authentication and signature methods*;¹⁴ and annual reports on the status of ratification and enactment of UNCITRAL texts (A/CN.9/651 and A/CN.9/647) and the UNCITRAL consolidated bibliography (A/CN.9/650 and A/CN.9/673). A collection of UNCITRAL legal texts on CD-ROM will be available in 2009.

(c) Dissemination

38. UNCITRAL's website provides information on UNCITRAL texts and the ongoing work of the Commission, case law on UNCITRAL texts, archival and research materials and other information relating to international trade law. Official documents of earlier UNCITRAL sessions were added to the United Nations Official Documents System and the UNCITRAL website following the digitization of archival documentation conducted with the assistance of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York and the Documents Management Unit of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

4. Treaty Section

(a) Activities¹⁵

39. The Treaty Section continued to expand its technical assistance and training programme on participation in multilateral treaties, registration of treaties, depositary practices and final clauses in the context of the strategy for an era of application of international law action plan.

40. The Treaty Section, in collaboration with UNITAR, organized treaty seminars in English (with information in French upon request) at United Nations Headquarters in April and November 2008 and in April 2009. In June 2008, a capacity-building workshop was held in Ghana, organized by the Treaty Section in collaboration with the International Trade Law Division, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The workshop was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department of the Ministry of Justice of Ghana in cooperation with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States.

41. Also in 2008, the Treaty Section participated in two meetings at the invitation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat in Bangkok (convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and in Addis Ababa (convened by the Economic Commission for Africa). In July 2009, a capacity-building workshop was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, organized by the Treaty Section in collaboration with the Office of the General Counsel of the Caribbean Community and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney General's office of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

42. The 2008 treaty event was held from 23 to 26 and on 29 September and 1 October 2008. A publication on the theme of the event, *2008 Treaty Event*:

¹³ Ibid., M.08.V.5.

¹⁴ Ibid., E.09.V.4.

¹⁵ For more information on training activities, see <http://treaties.un.org>.

Towards Universal Participation and Implementation — Dignity and Justice for All of Us,¹⁶ was issued in July and distributed to all permanent missions, United Nations agencies and concerned non-governmental organizations, among others. A panel on the Arctic, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, was held in June 2008 to draw attention to the forthcoming treaty event.

43. The 2009 treaty event was held from 23 to 25 and on 28 and 29 September 2009. A publication on the theme of the event, *2009 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation*,¹⁷ was distributed to all permanent missions, United Nations agencies and concerned non-governmental organizations, among others.

(b) Publications

44. During the review period, the Treaty Section published 40 volumes of the *United Nations Treaty Series*. In addition, 30 volumes are in progress. The publication *Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General: status as at 1 April 2009*¹⁸ was printed and made available in English and French to the Permanent Missions in New York in July 2009.

(c) Dissemination

45. The Treaty Section continues to develop and enhance its computerization programme to facilitate the effective storage, retrieval and timely dissemination of treaty information, now substantially contained on the new website of the United Nations Treaty Collection opened in September 2008 and available free of charge for everyone. Updated information on the legal training organized at United Nations Headquarters and in the regions and publications relating to the annual treaty event were posted. Legal and technical assistance was also provided to Member States to help them establish their national databases and collections of treaties. The United Nations Treaty Collection was updated to include all treaties published in the *United Nations Treaty Series* up to the January 2007 registration month. In addition, the certified true copies of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General were posted on the site and an automated depositary notification posting and distribution system was launched. The status of each multilateral treaty is updated with each new action and can be obtained as a printed document through the website.

5. Distribution of United Nations legal publications

46. Pursuant to paragraph 75 of the previous report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Assistance (A/62/205) and paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 62/62 authorizing its implementation, copies of United Nations legal publications issued during 2008 and 2009 have been provided to the institutions in developing countries that have been receiving such publications under the Programme and to other institutions in a number of countries, in particular in developing countries, for which requests for such publications have been made by the Member States concerned.

¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.V.13.

¹⁷ Ibid., E.09.V.8.

¹⁸ Ibid., E.09.V.3.

47. In 2009, the Codification Division, in collaboration with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the United Nations Development Programme, responded to a request for legal materials from Kabul University Library to facilitate rebuilding its law library as part of the Afghanistan rule of law project of the United States Agency for International Development.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

48. The forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the International Law Seminar were held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 7 to 25 July 2008 and from 6 to 24 July 2009, during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the International Law Commission, respectively (see A/63/10, paras. 375-388, and A/64/10, paras. 253-267).

C. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

49. In addition to assisting the Office of Legal Affairs with the activities described above, UNITAR conducted various other activities in 2008 and 2009. For example, the UNITAR New York Office organized annual workshops on negotiation of international legal instruments; the World Intellectual Property Organization/UNITAR workshop on international intellectual property; the UNITAR fellowship programme at Columbia University Law School; the UNITAR visitors programme at New York University School of Law; and the workshop on international trade and the Doha Round. UNITAR also conducts a diploma course in international environmental law, which is a distance-learning course available in English, French and Spanish.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

50. In 2008, UNESCO published a collection of all the papers presented at a symposium, held in March 2006 on the occasion of UNESCO's sixtieth anniversary, entitled "UNESCO: sixty years of standard-setting in education, science and culture".

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme of Assistance in the biennium 2010-2011

A. General observations

51. The paragraphs below contain the recommendations requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 22 of its resolution 62/62. In formulating guidelines and recommendations, account has been taken of the fact that, in the resolution, the Assembly did not provide for new budgetary resources for the Programme, but relied instead on financing such activities from the existing overall level of appropriations and voluntary contributions.

52. Therefore, in substance, it is recommended that the United Nations continue the current activities under the Programme and develop and expand them if

sufficient funds are available. In principle, new activities should be undertaken only if the overall level of appropriations or voluntary contributions makes them possible.

B. Office of Legal Affairs

1. Codification Division

53. The Codification Division is expected to continue performing the various functions described in the present report depending on the level of available resources.

2. International Law Fellowship Programme

54. A number of fellowships will continue to be awarded each year under the International Law Fellowship Programme from the United Nations regular budget. Additional fellowships may be awarded from the trust fund for the Programme of Assistance, depending upon the amount of voluntary contributions received each year. The Programme should also be open to a limited number of self-funded participants.

55. Guidelines contained in General Assembly resolutions will be followed, in particular regarding the desirability of using, as far as possible, the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international organizations, universities and others, as well as the need, in appointing lecturers for the seminars of the International Law Fellowship Programme, to secure representation of the major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions. Every effort will be made to enhance and maintain the high quality of the lecturers and the seminars. The monolingual format will continue for the 2010 and 2011 programmes to reduce costs.

56. Furthermore, in the implementation of the Fellowship Programme, maximum use will be made of the existing human and material resources of the Organization, so as to achieve the best possible results within a policy of maximum financial restraint. To the extent possible, teaching experts for the seminars will be selected from among the staff of the Organization, thus reducing to a minimum consultant fees and making full use of the expertise of Organization staff in international law and related areas.

57. At the invitation of the Codification Division, UNITAR may continue to participate in the administration of the Fellowship Programme, as appropriate, and in accordance with the guidelines set out above.

3. Regional courses

58. Member States are encouraged to notify the Codification Division of their availability to host regional courses and to make voluntary contributions to their funding. The Division will consider ways and means to revitalize the organization of such courses, within available resources.

4. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

59. The Codification Division is expected to maintain and further develop the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, depending on available resources, including voluntary contributions.

5. Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

60. The Office of Legal Affairs will continue to award at least one Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship annually, subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions made specifically to this fellowship and in accordance with the rules and guidelines for its implementation.

6. International Trade Law Division

61. The International Trade Law Division will continue to provide training and assistance in international trade law, which is of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with the recommendations made by UNCITRAL and the General Assembly in this regard, and within existing resources.

7. Treaty Section

62. The Treaty Section will continue its technical assistance and training programme on participation in multilateral treaties, registration of treaties, depositary practices and final clauses, within existing resources.

8. Interns

63. With regard to the training of interns, geographical distribution will be duly borne in mind in selecting interns and, at the same time, existing possibilities will be fully taken advantage of, irrespective of nationality.

9. Distribution of legal publications

64. United Nations legal publications issued in 2010 and 2011 will be distributed to the institutions in developing countries that have been receiving such publications under the Programme and to other institutions in developing countries for which requests for such publications are made by the Member States concerned. Each request will be reviewed on its merits taking into account the availability of the legal publication and shipping costs. The dissemination of legal publications and information via the Internet as well as other electronic media will continue in order to supplement the limited numbers of hard copies, without prejudice to the unique value of printed materials for legal research and education.

C. United Nations Office at Geneva**Geneva International Law Seminar**

65. It is expected that, if sufficient voluntary contributions from States continue to be made, new sessions of the Geneva International Law Seminar will be held in 2010 and 2011 in conjunction with those of the International Law Commission. Scheduling of the sessions of the Seminar will be done in such a way as to make it possible to provide it with adequate services, including interpretation, as required.

IV. Administrative and financial implications of United Nations participation in the Programme of Assistance

A. Biennium 2008-2009

66. In the biennium 2008-2009, the actual cost of producing and supplying publications to institutions in developing countries, falls under the allocations relating to administrative and common services of the respective substantive programme budget to which each publication belongs.

67. Concerning the cost of the International Law Fellowship Programme, a total of \$437,100 was included in the regular budget under section 8 (Legal affairs: grants and contributions) of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

68. In resolution 62/62, the General Assembly reiterated its request to Member States and to interested organizations and individuals to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of activities under the Programme. Accordingly, notes verbales were sent to Member States on 28 February 2008 and 20 March 2009, drawing their attention to that resolution and to General Assembly resolutions 62/66 and 63/123 on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions respectively.

69. In 2008, voluntary contributions were made for the Programme of Assistance (Trinidad and Tobago: \$10,000) as well as for the following specific activities thereof: (a) the International Law Fellowship Programme: the Holy See (\$3,000) and Ireland (\$2,765); and (b) the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law: Cyprus (\$3,000); Finland (\$23,482); Mexico (\$5,000); Norway (\$44,000); Poland (\$10,000); Spain (\$19,100); Switzerland (\$25,000); and Thailand (\$1,500). In 2009, voluntary contributions were made for the Programme of Assistance (Panama: \$1,500) as well as for the following specific activities thereof: (a) the International Law Fellowship Programme: Ireland (\$6,794); and (b) the Audiovisual Library: Germany (\$28,250); Ireland (\$5,480); Japan (\$55,000); Mexico (\$5,000); Switzerland (\$25,000); and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$7,287). In addition, Sweden made a pledge of \$25,000 for the Library in 2009 and the law firm Greenberg Traurig a pledge of \$1,000. Further contributions of \$25,000 by the United Nations Foundation, \$1,000 by Lucy Reed, President of the American Society of International Law, and \$2,500 by Seton Hall University were made in the period 2008-2009.

70. For the International Law Seminar, the Governments of the following countries made contributions in 2008: Austria (\$13,298); China (\$7,886); Croatia (\$5,000); Czech Republic (\$3,000); Finland (\$6,051); Hungary (\$3,756); Ireland (\$5,007); Mexico (\$10,000); Sweden (\$9,300); Switzerland (\$15,045); and the United Kingdom (\$6,958). In 2009, contributions were received from: Austria (\$10,000); Finland (\$5,115); Hungary (\$3,911); Ireland (\$3,164); Lebanon (\$2,000); Mexico (\$10,000); Sweden (\$9,500); Switzerland (\$13,100); and the United Kingdom (\$7,082).

71. For the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship on the law of the sea, the following countries made contributions in 2008: Cyprus (\$5,095); Ireland (\$2,764); Monaco (\$11,631); and Sri Lanka (\$2,500). In 2009, contributions were received from Ireland (\$6,772) and Monaco (\$9,692).

72. Contributions to the UNCITRAL Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia were received from Mexico (\$5,000) and Singapore (\$2,000) in 2008 and Cameroon (\$2,257) in 2009.

B. Biennium 2010-2011

73. Assuming that the recommendations regarding legal publications are adopted, the cost of handling and shipping United Nations legal publications issued in 2010 and 2011 would be covered by the estimates under the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

74. With regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme, and possibly regional courses depending on available resources, an amount of \$431,500 is proposed in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 under section 8 (Legal affairs), assuming that the General Assembly approves the recommendations on those programmes.

75. The Secretary-General would repeat his efforts, if the General Assembly so decides, in requesting voluntary contributions to the Programme.

V. Meetings of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

A. Membership of the Advisory Committee

76. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/62, appointed the following 25 Member States for membership of the Advisory Committee for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2011: Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

B. Consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General by the Advisory Committee at its forty-third and forty-fourth sessions

77. As part of the preparation of the present report, the Secretary-General prepared an interim report covering the activities carried out during 2008 by the various bodies that participated in the execution of the Programme for consideration by the Advisory Committee.¹⁹

78. The Advisory Committee held its forty-third session on 6 November 2008, to discuss the interim report of the Secretary-General. At that session, the representatives of the following members of the Committee were present: Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran

¹⁹ Conference room paper of 13 August 2008.

(Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, United Republic of Tanzania, United States and Uruguay.

79. At the forty-fourth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 16 October 2009, the representatives of the following members of the Committee were present: Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine and United States.

80. The forty-third and forty-fourth sessions were chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana, Leslie K. Christian.

81. The Codification Division acted as Secretary of the Advisory Committee at both sessions.

82. During the consideration of the interim report at the forty-third session, the view was expressed that the trust fund to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of UNCITRAL should be distinguished from the other trust funds aiming to finance activities under the Programme of Assistance.

83. Prior to the consideration of the draft report of the Secretary-General²⁰ at the forty-fourth session, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement. Information was provided concerning recent developments in the Programme of Assistance as well as possible plans for the future. Attention was drawn to the continuing efforts to strengthen, expand and revitalize the activities under the Programme in response to the increasing need for international law training and dissemination, including the creation of Internet websites, desktop publishing, electronic publishing and the United Nations Audiovisual Library. It was noted that further progress could be achieved with respect to the face-to-face training programmes conducted in The Hague and the regional courses. The goal was to complete the revitalization of the Programme before its fiftieth anniversary in 2015. Information was also provided concerning the more timely issuance of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* and the expansion of the scope of legal opinions of the United Nations contained in that publication, including the possibility of publishing a special edition containing legal opinions of the United Nations.

84. During the consideration of the draft report, several members of the Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of the Programme of Assistance, with attention being drawn to its contribution to the rule of law, and expressed support for the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs, particularly the Codification Division, to strengthen and expand the activities under the Programme.

85. Regarding paragraph 18 of the draft report, some members expressed the view that regional courses provided an important international law training opportunity for lawyers in developing countries, as well as the concern that no such courses had been held during the current biennium. Attention was drawn to the possibility that regional organizations, such as the African Union and the Caribbean Community, might be able to provide support for regional courses. In response to questions, the Secretary indicated that it was difficult for developing countries in which the regional courses were usually held to bear the financial cost of hosting them. The Codification Division was exploring various options for revitalizing the regional

²⁰ Issued as a conference room paper.

courses, including achieving greater cost-efficiencies and seeking new partners to help finance them.

86. In relation to paragraph 20, several members expressed their support for the Audiovisual Library as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world. The Secretary indicated that the Library had been accessed in 175 countries and territories during the first year after its launch. The Secretary also noted that the Library had just received the 2009 Best Website Award from the International Association of Law Librarians at its annual meeting, held in Turkey in October 2009.

87. A concern was expressed regarding difficulties encountered in using the Audiovisual Library in some developing countries, where high speed Internet access was limited for various reasons. The question of making the lectures available for users in these countries in different media (such as DVD-ROM) was raised. The Secretary indicated that the Codification Division did not envisage such an initiative at the present time owing to limited resources and other considerations relating to the unique nature of the audiovisual materials themselves.

88. Regarding paragraph 23, appreciation was expressed for the preservation of the audiovisual heritage of the United Nations in the field of international law through the efforts of the Codification Division with respect to the historic archives of the Audiovisual Library.

89. Referring to paragraph 27, support was expressed for considering the possibility of providing funding from the regular budget for the Library as an important mechanism for expanding international law training on a global scale. The view was also expressed that the proposal deserved consideration in the light of the support expressed in the Committee.

90. In connection with paragraph 28, appreciation was expressed for the desktop publishing initiative of the Codification Division, which had greatly expedited the issuance of its legal publications, notably the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*. Support was expressed for expanding the publication of the legal opinions of the United Nations. The view was expressed that the publication of earlier opinions merited consideration.

91. Regarding paragraphs 29 and 30, appreciation was expressed for the websites established by the Codification Division as an important contribution to the dissemination of international law and as an important tool for international law research.

92. As regards paragraphs 32 and 76, a question was raised concerning the relationship between the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship award and the Trust Fund for the Programme of Assistance. The Secretary explained that the core activities of the Programme of Assistance established in 1965 covered international law training and dissemination in broad terms rather than a specific field of international law. The Codification Division was responsible for these activities, including requesting voluntary contributions specifically earmarked to support them, as well as the implementation of the Programme. Since 1965 other international law training activities had been created for specific fields of international law, such as the law of the sea and international trade law, by separate mandates that provided for separate funding specifically earmarked for these activities. For administrative reasons, these new activities had been brought within

the framework of the Programme of Assistance. The Secretary indicated that this matter would be clarified in the present report in view of other recent queries concerning this matter (see annex II). A further question was raised concerning the use of the contributions to the Amerasinghe Fellowship since no fellowships had been awarded during the present biennium. The Secretary explained that the funds would be used to award such a fellowship as soon as sufficient voluntary contributions earmarked for that purpose had been received.

93. Regarding paragraph 36, the view was expressed that international trade law training was of particular importance for lawyers in developing countries and that the possibility of expanding these training opportunities should be considered. The Secretary noted that the International Trade Law Division in Vienna was primarily responsible for specialized training in this field, which related to the work of UNCITRAL. This view would be conveyed to the Division for appropriate consideration. The Secretary also noted that the general international law training courses organized by the Codification Division in The Hague as well as the regional courses included a course on international trade law as a core subject of international law. The Audiovisual Library also contained a number of lectures by leading scholars and practitioners relating to international trade law, particularly the World Trade Organization, as well as commercial arbitration.

94. As regards paragraph 55, a question was raised concerning teaching and dissemination with respect to international law relating to other international or regional organizations. The Secretary indicated that the training courses organized by the Codification Division addressed the contribution of the United Nations as well as of other organizations to the field of international law and included lecturers from the United Nations and other organizations. In addition, the Audiovisual Library contained lectures concerning the relevant work of various organizations and provided links to their documentation.

95. Support was expressed for the annual consideration of the item on the Programme of Assistance by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly in view of the current dynamic nature of the Programme.

Annex I

Internet uniform resource locators for websites cited in the report and maintained by the Office of Legal Affairs

<i>Website</i>	<i>Uniform resource locator</i>
Treaty Section	
United Nations Treaty Collection	http://treaties.un.org
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	
Oceans and law of the sea	http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm
International Trade Law Division	
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	http://www.uncitral.org
Codification Division	
Codification of international law	http://www.un.org/law/lindex.htm
Sixth Committee of the General Assembly	http://www.un.org/ga/sixth
International Law Commission	http://www.un.org/law/ilc
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	http://www.un.org/law/chartercomm
Ad Hoc Committee on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission	http://www.un.org/law/criminalaccountability
Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations	http://www.un.org/law/administrationofjustice
Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996	http://www.un.org/law/terrorism
Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property	http://www.un.org/law/jurisdictionalimmunities
Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings	http://www.un.org/law/cloning

<i>Website</i>	<i>Uniform resource locator</i>
Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel	http://www.un.org/law/UNsafetyconvention
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc
Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	http://www.un.org/law/programmeofassistance
United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law	http://www.un.org/law/avl
Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs	http://www.un.org/law/repertory
United Nations Juridical Yearbook	http://www.un.org/law/UNJuridicalYearbook/index.htm
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice	http://www.un.org/law/ICJsummaries
Diplomatic conferences (official records of proceedings)	http://untreaty.un.org/cod/diplomaticconferences
United Nations Reports of International Arbitral Awards	http://www.un.org/law/riaa
United Nations legal publications portal	http://www.un.org/law/UNlegalpublications

Annex II

Relationship between the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship and the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

1. By its resolution 35/116 entitled “Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the question of awarding a memorial fellowship or scholarship in the field of the law of the sea and related matters, in recognition of the unique contribution made by Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe to the work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in his capacity as President of the Conference from its inception until his death in 1980.

2. In his 1981 report (A/36/697), the Secretary-General recommended that this memorial fellowship be established as an activity to be carried out by the secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea^a within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

3. The Secretary-General recommended that the existing framework be utilized and that the funds for the memorial fellowship be from “voluntary contributions so earmarked” by Member States or other donors invited by the Secretary-General periodically to make such contributions for financing the Programme of Assistance or otherwise assisting in its implementation and possible expansion.

4. By its resolution 36/79 entitled “Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea”, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of the memorial fellowship.

5. By its resolution 36/108 entitled “United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the memorial fellowship “to be financed by voluntary contributions specifically made for the endowment of the Fellowship”.

6. Since 1981 the General Assembly has adopted successive resolutions^b on the Programme of Assistance, following its consideration by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law and the Sixth Committee, in which the Assembly has consistently authorized the Secretary-General to provide for this memorial fellowship in subsequent years “subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions made specifically to this fellowship fund”.^c

^a The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs assumed responsibility for the administration of the memorial fellowship, including requesting voluntary contributions specifically earmarked for this purpose.

^b General Assembly resolutions 36/108, 38/129, 40/65, 42/148, 44/28, 46/50, 48/29, 50/43, 52/152, 54/102, 56/77, 58/73 and 60/19.

^c General Assembly resolution 62/62.