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Chair: Mr. Huth (Vice-Chair) (Germany)
Later: Mr. Bonifaz (Vice-Chair) (Peru)

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In the absence of Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine), Mr. Huth (Germany), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 81: Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (*continued*) (A/67/126 and Add.1)

1. **Ms. Alsubaie** (Saudi Arabia) said that her Government condemned all acts of violence, wherever they occurred and for whatever reason, against consular and diplomatic missions and representatives: such acts posed a serious threat to the maintenance of peaceful international relations. Member States should cooperate in adopting and implementing measures to ensure respect for the inviolability of missions and representatives. As a host country, Saudi Arabia had taken the necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of missions on its soil. It had also become a party to a number of international conventions governing diplomatic and consular relations; she urged all Member States to do the same. Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/12, she said that Saudi Arabian missions had in the recent past been the victims of serious violations, including kidnappings and attempted assassinations; the perpetrators of those attacks must be brought to justice.

2. **Mr. Kim Saeng** (Republic of Korea) said that compliance with conventions governing diplomatic and consular relations was a prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States at the bilateral and international levels. His delegation strongly condemned violent acts directed at consular missions and international organizations, including the United Nations, and was gravely concerned at recent bouts of such violence. Receiving States were under a special duty to protect diplomatic and consular missions against intrusion or damage under the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

3. **Mr. Maza Martelli** (El Salvador) said that a number of the principles governing diplomatic and consular relations came within the scope of customary international law and had helped to develop solid ties between States even before the establishment of the relevant international treaties. It was important to note that the notion of protection and security among States and international organizations also applied to the basic rights of personnel of diplomatic and consular missions.

4. States must not be permitted to commit intrusions that would violate individuals' basic rights, and they must create the conditions necessary for the full enjoyment of those rights. States must also take all necessary steps to prevent criminal acts against diplomatic and consular staff, especially those that endangered lives or undermined personal integrity, and to investigate and prosecute any such acts that did occur. Compliance with article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations was of particular importance. Member States and the United Nations should continue to provide each other with relevant updates on security situations, with a view to identifying effective measures relating to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

5. El Salvador was a party to the two Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. On the basis of those conventions, the Salvadoran Ministry of Foreign Affairs had the capacity to submit official requests for the protection of such persons to a specialized division of the National Civil Police. In such cases, although the protection afforded could vary depending on the requirements of the mission or organization in question, the police had the necessary organizational structure to respond appropriately.

6. **Mr. Norman** (Canada) said that the duty to protect diplomatic and consular staff was crucial to maintaining friendly relations not only between States but also between States and international organizations. The privileges and immunities of such organizations often had international legal bases other than the Vienna Conventions, and not every country was legally bound by such alternative sources. Nonetheless, such protection was necessary in order to allow organizations to fulfil their mandates around the world.

7. His Government continued to condemn violent acts that targeted diplomatic or consular premises and individuals and called on all States to do the same. It was incumbent on receiving States to heed the legitimate security concerns of foreign missions, to ensure that local authorities reacted swiftly to prevent such acts and, failing such efforts, to stop them immediately when they occurred. Close cooperation between missions and local authorities to prevent violations of diplomatic and consular protections was needed.

8. Even in cases where missions and their staff had been recalled or expelled, diplomatic property retained its entitlement to protection from the receiving State. In accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, while diplomatic and consular missions and representatives were not generally subject to the jurisdiction of the receiving State, they were expected to respect the local laws of that State. The obligation to respect local laws and the obligation to protect diplomatic and consular premises and representatives were, however, independent of one another. States should not invoke the failure to adhere to one obligation as justification for not respecting another.

9. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba) said that Cuba unequivocally condemned the continued encroachments on the safety of diplomatic missions and their staff and urged the adoption of measures to prevent and punish such acts. She called on all States to comply with their obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents and expressed her delegation's support for the maintenance of the item on the Committee's agenda for consideration on a biennial basis.

10. Cuba had taken a number of measures, including establishing a Multiple Response System for the Security and Protection of the Diplomatic Corps to punish and prevent offences and to ensure that all diplomats in that country enjoyed a calm and safe climate for the performance of their functions. As a result, there had been a notable decrease in the number of criminal acts and no instances of violent intrusions into diplomatic offices. Improvements had also been made in the investigation of offences committed against the diplomatic corps.

11. **Mr. Simonoff** (United States of America) said that respect for the rules protecting the sanctity of diplomats and consular officials was a prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States. As a host country to the United Nations, the United States attached particular importance to the protection of diplomats; he urged all nations to do the same. He expressed concern at the recent attacks on diplomatic missions and their staff, including in Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Pakistan and Sudan, as well as on the

facilities and staff of the United Nations, and urged Member States to strengthen their resolve to combat all such acts of violence. Referring to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, he said that receiving States must redouble their efforts to fulfil their obligations to prevent attacks targeting diplomatic and consular premises and their staff; likewise, the General Assembly should reaffirm Member States' fundamental obligations to protect diplomats and consular officials. Member States must cooperate closely to develop and implement practical measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

12. **Mr. Obrien** (India) said that the role of diplomatic and consular missions was crucial in fulfilling the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The protection of such missions and their representatives was therefore of the utmost importance. India strongly condemned all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives, which posed a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations among nations.

13. India had become a party to the major international instruments aimed at ensuring the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; he urged all States to do the same. In addition to upholding such instruments, all measures necessary to protect missions and representatives must be taken at all levels.

14. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the success of diplomacy depended in part on securing a safe and secure environment for diplomatic representatives. Many missions of the Syrian Arab Republic had recently come under attack, with opposition groups abroad taking advantage of the regrettable events in Syria to demonstrate in front of and attack missions. In several cases, embassies had been stormed and property damaged; attacks on vehicles and against diplomatic personnel had also been reported. All such attacks, regardless of their nature and location, were crimes that must be condemned. While some countries had dealt with attacks in line with their obligations under international law, others had not responded at the appropriate level.

15. His Government was doing its utmost to guarantee the safety and security of the missions and representatives on its territory. He called on other

Member States to comply with the Vienna Conventions on Consular and Diplomatic Relations.

16. **Ms. Topf-Mazeh** (Israel) said that her country attached great importance to developing effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The physical well-being of such missions and their staff was a prerequisite for the execution of their duties and as such was an essential component of effective international relations.

17. Israeli missions had long been the deliberate target of terrorist attacks. Moreover, recent attacks against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in the Middle East and elsewhere had shown that no one was immune. The international nature of those abhorrent crimes required an effective international response. She called on the international community to cooperate closely and to take all necessary steps to provide adequate protection for all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

18. The Committee should highlight the obligations arising out of the major international instruments providing for the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. She reiterated her Government's commitment to compliance with its obligations under the Vienna Conventions and all other relevant instruments of international law to which it was a party.

19. **Mr. Alabsi** (Bahrain) said that his Government was committed to complying with its obligations under the international treaties to which it was a party. As one of the sponsors of the General Assembly resolution that had been adopted following the attempted assassination of the Saudi Ambassador to the United States of America, his delegation was deeply concerned at the continued violation of the safety of missions and their representatives, of which the attack on the United States Consulate in Benghazi was a recent example.

20. Host countries were responsible for ensuring the safety and security of the missions and representatives on their territory and should spare no effort to that end; in turn, missions must implement security measures in the host country according to the principles of international law. Host countries must bring to justice all perpetrators of attacks on missions and representatives and must furthermore keep international commitments from being undermined by political whims.

21. **Ms. Taratukhina** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was gravely concerned at recent attacks on diplomatic missions and staff, the majority of which had occurred in North Africa during a period of political instability. The current situation was unacceptable: the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives was not negotiable. Governments of the States concerned must take decisive measures to guarantee the safety of such missions and their staff in accordance with their international law obligations. Steps must also be taken to conduct thorough investigations of violent acts committed against diplomatic and consular missions and staff in order to call the perpetrators to account.

22. **Mr. Jubail** (Libya) said that Libya had ratified the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and complied with its obligations through the implementation of appropriate measures. Since the beginning of the revolution against the former regime in Libya, certain missions and residences of diplomatic personnel had been victims of attacks by unidentified groups. Following the establishment of the interim Government, Libya had begun assessing the damage and conducting the necessary investigations; further details would be provided by the Libyan Government shortly. Libya condemned the regrettable incident in Benghazi against the United States Consulate which had led to the death of the Ambassador.

23. **Ms. Zarrouk Boumiza** (Tunisia) said that his Government strongly condemned the recent attacks in the area surrounding the United States Embassy and the American Cooperative School in Tunis, which did not reflect the true character of post-revolution Tunisia. Tunisia was committed to ensuring the protection and security of the diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and other relevant international instruments.

24. **Mr. Abdelkhalek** (Egypt) said that the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations must be observed to enable foreign officials to effectively fulfil their mandates. The protection of such representatives was of the utmost priority for Egypt, which had one of the widest diplomatic representations around the world, and whose capital hosted an exceptionally large number of foreign missions and international institutions.

25. The Egyptian authorities had always strictly enforced the provisions of international diplomatic law, including during the security situation arising out of the overwhelmingly peaceful revolution of 25 January 2011. During that time, the authorities had demonstrated their commitment to the safety and security of all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, maintaining that any act of violence against diplomatic missions, wherever it occurred, was never justified.

26. In that same context, his Government had condemned the incidents of violence against a number of diplomatic missions that had occurred as a reaction to the recent unacceptable acts of incitement and provocation against Muhammad the Prophet. It had also condemned, in particular, the attacks on the United States Consulate in Benghazi that had resulted in the death of the Ambassador and three other United States officials.

27. With regard to the protests before the United States Embassy in Cairo in early September 2012, he underlined that that while fully respecting the rights of Egyptians to demonstrate peacefully, the police had taken all necessary measures to protect the Embassy, including setting up roadblocks on the main streets leading to the United States Embassy and arresting any individuals who broke the law. The 145 protestors who had been arrested were being duly prosecuted by the Egyptian judiciary. His delegation was therefore puzzled by the call of the European Union delegation, during its statement on the current item, to bring the perpetrators to justice. It rejected that call and invited that delegation to strive for accuracy and to carefully consider all the circumstances surrounding an event before calling for action.

28. He encouraged all States to step up their efforts to protect the safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

29. **Mr. Hamaneh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government was firmly committed to fulfilling its obligations under international law, in particular the Vienna Conventions. The fact that diplomatic and consular missions around the world, including those of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continued to suffer violations was a source of major concern.

30. Certain delegations continued to make baseless allegations in an endless political campaign against his Government. His delegation categorically rejected the

recent unsubstantiated accusation by the United States of America against Iranian officials, who they claimed had attempted to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, and cautioned all other delegations against believing the lies being circulated by the United States in an evil plot to destroy peace and stability in the Middle East. That the burden of proof lay with the accusing party was a basic principle of law. He warned against leading a propaganda campaign in the General Assembly, which in any case did not supplant the claimant's need to provide proof to back its allegations.

31. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his Government placed great importance on the observance of international law, especially the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to which it was a party. The Sudanese Government spared no effort in fulfilling its obligations to ensure the safety and security of the diplomatic corps. The attack on the United States Consulate in Libya was deeply regrettable and he welcomed the efforts of the Libyan authorities to prevent similar attacks in future. Referring to the statement by the United States representative concerning violations in Sudan, he recalled that the attack on the United States Embassy in Sudan had been a response by peaceful demonstrators who were provoked by actions that defamed the Prophet Muhammad. The Sudanese Government had acted decisively in the aftermath of the attack, adopting additional measures to protect diplomatic missions and consulates, including those belonging to the United States. It continued to be in direct contact with those concerned at the United States Embassy in Sudan to resolve any pending issues.

32. *Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 82: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
(continued) (A/C.6/67/L.3)

33. **Mr. Bailen** (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.3, concerning the thirtieth anniversary of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, recalled that the draft resolution had been prepared on the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

34. **The Chair** suggested deferring action on the draft resolution to a later stage.

35. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 78: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
(A/67/518)

36. **Ms. Morris** (Office of Legal Affairs), speaking in her capacity as Secretary of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, said that the Committee's consideration of the agenda item would have a significant impact on the future of the Programme of Assistance. The Programme had always been of great importance for government lawyers, teachers and students around the world, particularly in developing countries, where there was growing demand for the international law training and research materials the Programme provided. She expressed appreciation for the support received from the Advisory Committee and the Sixth Committee, which had made it possible for the Codification Division to review and significantly strengthen the Programme since 2005. Recent improvements included the expansion of the scope and timeliness of the Programme's publications, which were now also issued on CD-ROM to facilitate electronic research in developing countries where there was limited access to reliable high-speed Internet; the expansion of the desktop publishing programme to include most of the Programme's publications; the publication of the summary of the jurisprudence of the Permanent Court of International Justice and a new volume in the *United Nations Legislative Series* on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, with another volume on the jurisprudence relating to that topic, as requested by Member States, planned for 2013. No additional resources had been used in the process and the desktop publishing programme would continue on a voluntary basis for as long as the necessary resources were available. Without such resources, it would take about five years for the publications to be issued by the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Codification Division had also created and maintained over 20 websites to supplement traditional hard copies of publications, although the latter continued to be of great value to

lawyers in both developing and developed countries. The effort to expand the dissemination of legal material using the Internet had not required any additional resources.

37. The Codification Division had assumed responsibility for the administrative aspects of the International Law Fellowship Programme, previously handled by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), without using additional resources, and would continue to do so for as long as resources were available. The resulting savings had increased the number of fellowships that could be provided from the regular budget.

38. The Codification Division had also taken over administrative duties for the regional courses in international law without using additional resources. Efforts were being made to find places where courses could be held on a regular basis, in order to remove the inefficiencies resulting from holding the courses in different countries every time. Two such courses had been held in Ethiopia and the agreement with the host country had been extended to provide for the next course in 2013. She appealed to all Member States to provide the necessary voluntary contributions needed to cover its cost. Despite the support of the Government of Thailand and voluntary contributions from three Member States, funds were needed to cover the cost of the course for the Asia-Pacific region to be held in November 2012. No courses would be held in the Asia-Pacific region or Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013, owing to the lack of voluntary contributions. It was hoped that a course would be held in Costa Rica in 2014. The extent of support by the Member States for the regional courses in international law would be the decisive factor in determining whether the courses would be included in the programme of activities for the next biennium.

39. The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law had become a major resource for international law training and research, giving the United Nations the unprecedented capacity to provide high-quality international law training on virtually every subject of international law to an unlimited number of users around the world. The Library's educational value came from the leading international law scholars and practitioners who donated a significant amount of their time preparing materials for the Library's Lecture Series and Historic Archives, covering all related expenses. Owing to the decrease in

voluntary contributions in 2011, however, the Library's staff had been reduced by half. Funds were not available to hire the necessary staff to further develop the Historic Archives and to preserve the audiovisual heritage of the United Nations in the field of international law, some of which was becoming more difficult to preserve with the passage of time. Work on the Historic Archives and the Research Library of the Audiovisual Library would be discontinued at the end of 2012, while work on the Lecture Series would continue only if the necessary voluntary contributions were received. She appealed to all Member States to make voluntary contributions in support of the Library.

40. The success of the Programme of Assistance had been due to the effort and dedication of the Codification Division's staff and the financial support provided by a small number of Member States. The Programme could not meet the demand for international law training unless it had the support, including financial support, of all Member States. The time had come for Member States to seriously consider the future of the Programme of Assistance and their commitment to promoting a better knowledge of international law in the 21st century.

41. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC members had made strides in incorporating the fundamental principles and norms of international law into their domestic legal systems and participated actively in the establishment of organizations engaged in the field of international law. Knowledge of the principles of international law was a prerequisite for their observance, and scholarships and courses on international law in particular had a multiplier effect within the community of students and professionals. CELAC supported the organization of a regional course in international law for Latin America and the Caribbean and, in addition, urged all Member States to make contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, in view of the shortage of funds for the training of young professionals from developing countries, and to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Trust Fund.

42. With regard to information resources, he commended the Office of Legal Affairs for maintaining 26 user-friendly international law-related web sites, which contained valuable resources for researchers, and he appealed to all Member States to make or

increase their contributions to the Audiovisual Library of International Law, which provided a useful toolbox for the achievement of the Programme's goals and had the potential to reach millions of people worldwide.

43. The Codification Division's publication of the *United Nations Legislative Series* and the summaries of advisory opinions and judgments from the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of International Justice greatly benefited the academic community, as did its efforts to expand the desktop publishing programme. Since the working languages of the International Court of Justice were English and French, the publication of the summaries and decisions in all the official languages of the United Nations was often the only way for teachers, researchers and students in countries where those languages were not spoken to access the Court's jurisprudence. Since knowledge of it was indispensable to the understanding of the evolution of the rules of international law, no effort should be spared in updating that collection and ensuring its widest possible dissemination.

44. He also welcomed the publication of the special volume in the *United Nations Legislative Series* on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, which would serve as a valuable supplement to the articles on that topic that had been adopted by the International Law Commission in 2001. The series concerning the legislative history of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other publications of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea were also valuable.

45. Efforts should be redoubled to increase resources to ensure the effectiveness of the Programme of Assistance, organize periodic regional courses in international law and ensure the viability of the Audiovisual Library. While he urged all Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme and requested the Secretariat to explore alternative ways to remedy the shortage of funding, the ability to keep contributions to the Programme voluntary over time was in question. In view of the Programme's importance for the international community and its overall cost, the long-term sustainability of the Programme and alternative ways of financing it should be examined at the Committee's next session.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

46. **Mr. Salem** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Internet-based activities of the Programme of Assistance benefited many lawyers and students in developing countries, fulfilling the purpose for which it had been originally established at the initiative of the African States. The Programme's goal had become even more relevant with the renewed emphasis placed by the United Nations on the promotion of the rule of law, including the rule of international law. Urgent attention was needed to address the financial and other resource constraints facing the Programme, which would not be able to fulfil its purpose of promoting better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security without the required funding.

47. He commended the Codification Division for its efforts to strengthen the Programme, preserve the number of international law programme fellowships at The Hague Academy of International Law and carry out its desktop publishing programme. The Group was pleased that regional courses in international law had been held in Addis Ababa in 2010 and 2012 and that another course would be held in 2013; it also commended the Ethiopian Government for hosting the course and the African Union for its voluntary contribution.

48. Member States had an obligation to promote and advance international law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Adequate resources should be provided under the regular budget to sustain the Audiovisual Library of International Law and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. More resources should be made available to enable the Secretariat to publish research papers and other materials on international law in hard copy, which was easier for States with limited Internet facilities to access. He urged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the Programme's various activities. Respect and understanding of international law could not be achieved through political means alone; adequate teaching and dissemination thereof was crucial in that process.

49. **Mr. Pham Quang Hieu** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN highly appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Office of Legal Affairs and its affiliates to expand international law

training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme. The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law was making a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world. Its use of information communications technology, such as web-based electronic research, e-documents and the digitization of audio and video files, was bridging the knowledge gap in international law. ASEAN commended the Codification Division's desktop publishing programme and its online publications aimed at the further dissemination of international law. The organization of a three-week regional course in international law in Thailand, the fourth ASEAN member to host the course, moved the Programme towards a deeper engagement with States parties. Yet the financial and other resource constraints facing the Programme in the coming fiscal year would hinder its future success. ASEAN called on Member States, universities, institutions and research centres, philanthropic foundations and other actors to consider making voluntary contributions to the Programme, because better knowledge of international law strengthened peace and security, promoted friendly relations between States and enhanced the rule of law at national and international levels.

50. **Mr. Tricot** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Programme of Assistance contributed towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace, security and the rule of law and promoting friendly relations among States. Knowledge of international law was a prerequisite for establishing the conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law could be maintained as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. By providing international law training and resources, the Programme of Assistance had made an important contribution to the advancement of the rule of law and to the work of the international legal community over the course of its existence.

51. The Office of Legal Affairs had made commendable efforts to strengthen and revitalize its

activities under the Programme of Assistance in order to meet the changing needs of the international legal community. Its use of modern technology for that purpose, such as the establishment of the Audiovisual Library, was especially notable. Given that the Audiovisual Library had become an important resource for the legal community, the Codification Division should continue pursuing that project. He welcomed the Division's desktop publishing initiative, together with its efforts to achieve cost-efficiencies with respect to the International Law Fellowship Programme and its conducting of regional courses in international law in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea was making an important contribution to capacity-building and the promotion of the Law of the Sea in developing countries, where there was a constant need for international law training and dissemination of legal resources. The Programme of Assistance was a core activity of the United Nations and benefited all States. It was crucial to ensure that it had adequate resources to continue to meet the needs of the international community for years to come. Many members of the European Union had made significant voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance, and he encouraged all Member States to consider doing so.

52. **Mr. Aynekullu** (Ethiopia) said that encouraging the development of international law as a way of regulating international relations had been a major objective of the United Nations since its founding. There was no better way to consolidate peace than by disseminating knowledge and application of international law. As a member of the Advisory Committee and the host of the regional courses in international law for the African region organized by the Codification Division, Ethiopia was committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the courses, which enabled government officials and young legal professionals to deepen their knowledge, contributed to the exchange of ideas and promoted greater understanding and cooperation on legal matters in the region.

53. **Mr. Choi Yong Hoon** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation remained a strong supporter of the Programme of Assistance and believed that it promoted worldwide understanding of the rule of law. His Government had played a major role in organizing the Regional Course in International Law in Seoul in 2010 and had set up the first United Nations Commission on

International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in Incheon in 2012. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the regional courses in international law and the International Law Fellowship Programme. The use of Internet-based resources by the Programme of Assistance was indispensable to overcoming the unavoidable shortages of resources. While the number of users accessing the Audiovisual Library of International Law had grown, financial support would help improve the Library and ensure its long-term success.

54. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Chile) said that the influence of international law on society was growing and that the knowledge and understanding of international law was especially important for lawyers, legislators and judges; its dissemination was therefore valuable and necessary. Accordingly, his Government made voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea and hosted the External Programme of The Hague Academy of International Law for Latin America, which was introducing young people to, and expanding their knowledge of, international law. The Programme of Assistance was making a valuable contribution to the field of international law and should continue its work.

55. **Mr. Alday** (Mexico) said that the Secretary-General's report had underlined the financial difficulties facing the Programme of Assistance, which had been further worsened by the decrease in voluntary contributions to the Programme arising from the current economic situation. The work of the Programme was of prime importance in ensuring the proper functioning of the Organization and in developing friendly relations among States based on mutual respect for the law. The dissemination and promotion of international law was the first step towards the fulfilment by Member States of their obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations. The Programme benefited all Member States and should not depend solely on the generosity of those States that made voluntary contributions. He drew attention to the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General, in its resolution 66/97, to provide to the programme budget for the next and future bienniums the necessary resources for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the further development of the Programme.

56. **Ms. Revell** (New Zealand) said that the work of the Programme of Assistance was one of the cornerstones of the Organization's effort to promote international law. Her delegation was pleased with the revitalization of the regional courses in international law, which provided an invaluable opportunity for young lawyers in government ministries, the judiciary and university law faculties to receive high-quality training by leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of subjects in international law. Her Government had made voluntary contributions in support of the regional courses in international law held in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012 and welcomed the organization of an English-language course in Africa in 2013 and a course for the Latin American and Caribbean region in 2014, provided there were sufficient voluntary contributions. Voluntary contributions by her Government also supported the Audiovisual Library of International Law, another valuable resource maintained by the Programme of Assistance. Her delegation hoped that the Programme of Assistance would continue its important activities and called on other States to make voluntary contributions to it.

57. **Mr. Eden Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his Government had supported the Programme of Assistance over the years and had contributed to its trust fund. The understanding and appreciation of international law fostered respect for the rule of law and helped maintain international peace and security. His delegation appreciated the Codification Division's efforts to enhance the capacity of international lawyers and diplomats in the performance of their mandates to advise their Governments on matters of international law. The latest summary of jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice was very useful and could encourage more States to submit disputes arising between them for pacific settlement by the Court or another third-party mechanism. The publication on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts had brought greater clarity to a topic that was often misunderstood by States, leading to international disputes. International law also provided a legal framework for States to explore and exploit living and non-living resources of different maritime zones within national jurisdiction as codified in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea had provided help to lawyers who were not experts in that field. He applauded the Division's

efforts to modernize its work and make resources available online. Those resources were widely used by those tasked with codifying in domestic legislation State party obligations under various international treaties and conventions.

58. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that the Programme of Assistance pursued a dual objective: the dissemination of international law as a tool for fostering the rule of law and as a tool for capacity-building, particularly in developing countries. The publications of the United Nations Codification Division, the Treaty Section and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the Historic Archives and complementary academic materials available through the Audiovisual Library of International Law all constituted a priceless resource for Member States, as they were used by public officials, practicing lawyers, researchers and students seeking to deepen their knowledge of international law. Her delegation also saw the regional courses in international law as useful training tools and recognized the importance of the regional workshops of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which promoted the peaceful settlement of disputes and the acceptance of the Tribunal's jurisdiction and strengthened the universality of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

59. The international law courses at The Hague Academy of International Law and the Geneva International Law Seminar of the International Law Commission had a longstanding tradition of providing training for international lawyers, particularly those from developing countries, and were renowned for their high quality and degree of specialization. In view of the fact that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea had not been awarded for several years prior to 2012, owing to a persistent lack of contributions to its trust fund, her delegation favoured a brief presentation on the Fellowship to the Committee in order to encourage new financial contributions.

60. The demand for training in international law was growing and knowledge of international law was essential for the rule of law at the international level. The Programme was contributing to the training of generations of government officials and lawyers in all Member States. Recognizing the efforts that were being made to continue the activities under the Programme of Assistance despite scarce resources, her

delegation questioned the viability of using voluntary contributions to fund the Programme. Her delegation called on Member States to examine, at the Committee's next session, alternative ways of ensuring that the Programme had the necessary financial resources in the next biennium and to reflect their commitment to doing so in a resolution to be adopted at the current session.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.