



# General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
24 December 2012

Original: English

---

## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 17th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 24 October 2012, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Bonifaz (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Peru)

## Contents

Agenda item 78: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

12-56663 (E)



Please recycle



*In the absence of Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

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

1. **Mr. Laseinde** (Nigeria) said that his Government was pleased to be a member of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance which, since its establishment in 1965, had proved increasingly valuable to students and practitioners of international law throughout the world, and specifically in developing countries like his own. The Secretary-General's report on the Programme (A/67/518) would be useful to the international community in establishing an appropriate legal framework for the promotion of friendly relations among States, which was a foundation for peace and security worldwide.

2. His delegation urged other Member States to support both the idea of an increase in the financing of the Programme from the regular budget and the suggestion that revenue from the sale of legal publications prepared by the Codification Division should be used to fund that Division's activities under the Programme of Assistance. He called attention to the importance of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, which was in urgent need of support in order to remain viable.

3. **Ms. Mariany** (Malaysia) said that it was not surprising that the United Nations Programme of Assistance had gained in popularity and importance throughout the world, given the role of international law as a normative framework for the actions of States. The Programme was bound to be of growing relevance to the furtherance of human progress and improved governance. Her delegation welcomed the fact that 19 fellowships had been awarded in 2012 under the International Law Fellowship Programme and looked forward to the Codification Division's being able to award 20 fellowships under the regular budget in 2013 as planned. It was pleased to see that Thailand would shortly host the regional course for lawyers from developing countries and hoped that all regional courses, including that for Latin America and the Caribbean, would be able to be held in 2013.

4. Malaysia appreciated the cost-saving measures taken to ensure the continuation of activities under the Programme, while welcoming the voluntary contributions made for 2012. It still remained concerned about the budget crisis facing the Programme as a whole and supported the idea of an increase in funding for it so as to ensure its continued effectiveness and future development.

5. **Mr. Kowalski** (Portugal) said that, in the present globalized era, there was an ever-growing need for access to sources of international law and that the Programme of Assistance had a crucial part to play in that regard. The Fellowship Programme, in particular, had a key role in providing training for practitioners around the world, notably in developing countries and countries with emerging economies. The teaching and study of core issues in international law contributed greatly to removing obstacles to international peace and security.

6. His delegation commended the Codification Division for its good work and encouraged it to keep considering options for revitalizing its programme of regional courses, including through the identification of suitable locations for the holding of such courses on a regular basis. It recognized the importance of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a tool for the study and dissemination of international law and encouraged the Treaty Section to continue to provide technical assistance on the registration of treaties, depositary practice of the Secretary-General and final clauses.

7. As a member of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, Portugal reaffirmed its commitment to the Programme while stressing the need to ensure greater stability for it; additional funding from the regular budget would be an important step in that direction.

8. **Mr. Sengsourinha** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Programme of Assistance had made a significant contribution in recent years to national capacity-building in international law. The Fellowship Programme was useful to all countries, including developing countries, as a means of excellent intensive training in its core aspects, as were the regional courses on international law, such as the one shortly to be held in Thailand. He expressed the hope that nominated candidates from his country would be

duly considered for admission to training courses under that Programme.

9. His Government gave priority to the teaching of international law, which was a compulsory subject in a number of national institutions and also available in the country as a short-term training option. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by development partners, was implementing the Lao International Law Project, which was designed to further the country's participation in the international legal system and had benefited a wide range of target groups; it had significantly contributed to the Government's efforts to meet its international obligations as well as to enhance the rule of law. A Legal Sector Master Plan had been put in place to that end, which would take due account of the outcome of the recent United Nations High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law. His Government looked forward to further support from development partners in the implementation of that Master Plan.

10. **Mr. Li Linlin** (China) said that the promotion of the rule of law was an important task of the United Nations and that the assistance it provided in the teaching, study and dissemination of international law was an essential means to that end. Its International Law Fellowship Programme and regional training courses, together with its constantly updated Audiovisual Library, duly performed their role of capacity-building in that field. China continued to support that work and had accordingly decided to donate US\$ 30,000 to the Programme of Assistance in the hope of further enhancing its effectiveness.

11. **Ms. McQuade** (Ireland) said that the Programme of Assistance made a real contribution to advancing the rule of law, thereby strengthening international peace and security, and that the Office of Legal Affairs was to be commended for its work. Her delegation welcomed the planned regional courses in international law, noting the efforts made to conduct them and the International Fellowship Programme in a cost-effective way. It also attached great importance to the Audiovisual Library of International Law and hoped that it would be expanded further in 2013. Ireland had in the past made modest voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance and would again make such a contribution for the current year; it urged other Member States to consider doing likewise.

12. **Ms. Niyomnaitham** (Thailand) joined with other delegations in commending the Office of Legal Affairs

for its activities under the Programme of Assistance. The Codification Division and the United Nations Audiovisual Library, in particular, played a useful role in promoting research and study in the field of international law through their publications and other resources, including access to archives. Thailand also appreciated the support provided by the International Fellowship Programme to qualified candidates from developing countries. Similarly, the regional courses in international law were important as they enabled officials and academics in such countries to receive high-level training in that field.

13. Her country remained committed to supporting the Programme of Assistance, not only through direct contributions to the Organization's regular budget, but also by hosting seminars and courses, notably the forthcoming the Asia-Pacific Regional course in International Law, which it would be co-hosting for the third time. Member States had a responsibility to remain mindful of the Programme's funding requirements and to contribute accordingly.

14. **Ms. Woldeyohannes** (Eritrea) said that the Programme of Assistance played an essential role in the field of international law; it strengthened international peace and security and promoted friendly relations among States. It was particularly useful to government officials, lawyers and students in developing countries and, through the dissemination of legal material, enabled young people to acquire greater expertise in international law and become more active in that field. Political means alone could not ensure an understanding of international law; adequate training and dissemination of information were a crucial part of the process. The East Africa Youth Forum, held in Eritrea in July 2012 on the subject of active youth citizenship for conflict transformation and regional integration, was a notable example of the usefulness of such activities in promoting the rule of law, in particular through the peaceful settlement of disputes. Moreover, the mounting demand for international law training could not be met by traditional training courses alone and, for that reason, her delegation greatly appreciated the Audiovisual Library of International Law, which was a useful tool for promoting a greater understanding of the United Nations role in that field.

15. Her Government believed that, in view of the growing complexity of the issues covered by international law and the resulting need for increased

numbers of qualified personnel, the activities of the Programme of Assistance, particularly those of special benefit to developing countries, should be supported by Member States and all concerned institutions and that regional courses under the Programme should continue to be held on a regular basis. Eritrea was in favour of the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism for the Programme.

16. **Ms. Topf-Mazeh** (Israel) said that exposing wider audiences to international law was key to creating a culture of peace and tolerance, and that regional courses in international law were an effective and efficient means of disseminating the subject, especially in developing countries. Her Government hoped that those courses would be offered more frequently, and stood ready to assist in providing training and scholars to that end. It also supported the further expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law. In 2012, her Government had made another voluntary contribution of US\$5,000 to the trust fund of the Programme of Assistance, and in particular to the Audiovisual Library.

17. **Ms. Steenkamp** (South Africa) said that the Programme of Assistance comprised many valuable elements and should be widely supported as an important tool for promoting the rule of law. Her Government welcomed the scholarships that would be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries to participate in the International Law Fellowship Programme and in regional courses in international law in 2012 and 2013. It also commended the decision to authorize the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2012 and another in 2013 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. She hoped that contributions to that fund would be sufficient to enable the Secretary-General to award more scholarships in the future. She commended the ongoing efforts of the Codification Division to contribute to the education of students and practitioners of international law worldwide.

18. The Audiovisual Library of International Law represented a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law, providing an opportunity for all, especially learners and practitioners from developing nations, to benefit from the knowledge of eminent experts. Member States were therefore urged to contribute in support of what was a commendable initiative. Her delegation welcomed the

continued distribution of United Nations legal publications to institutions in developing countries.

19. Pledging her Government's continued support for the Programme of Assistance, she urged Member States to consider innovative ways of supporting the Programme's activities, including the possibility of introducing assessed contributions from Member States.

20. **Mr. Arbogast** (United States of America) said that his Government was pleased to be a member of the Advisory Committee for the Programme of Assistance, which made a great contribution to educating students and practitioners throughout the world in international law. That knowledge furthered the rule of law at the national and international levels and gave new generations of lawyers, judges and diplomats a deeper understanding of the complex instruments that governed an interconnected world. He expressed appreciation for the creative ways in which the Codification Division had been able to keep important programmes going despite limited resources.

21. He hoped that the rule of law exercise would lead to new opportunities for appropriate resource support for the regional courses in international law, the Audiovisual Library and other activities of the Programme of Assistance.

22. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that his delegation commended the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs in promoting the Programme of Assistance despite its limited resources. It welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on that Programme (A/67/518), and was pleased to be a member of the Advisory Committee. It praised the African Union for helping to support the Programme of Assistance in Africa, and the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the Regional Course in International Law for Africa in 2012.

23. His Government welcomed the announcement of another regional course for Africa to be held in 2013 and the call for further dissemination of publications and journals of the Programme at an affordable cost, as well as the support and development of the Audiovisual Library, the regional courses and the International Law Fellowship Programme.

24. He reaffirmed the need for the United Nations to bear part of the cost of what had been a successful programme, especially given the desire of the majority of Member States to see it continue.

25. **Ms. Taratukhina** (Russian Federation) commended the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs to maintain the International Law Fellowship Programme at The Hague Academy of International Law; organize regional courses on international law; and publish high-quality legal materials that were of value to government agencies and the academic community. Of particular interest were the series of materials published on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, which constituted the most comprehensive compilation of the decisions of various courts that referred to the articles of on State responsibility adopted by the International Law Commission.

26. The study and systematization of the preparatory materials associated with various international treaties should be continued as part of the expansion of the Audiovisual Library of International Law. It was also important to support the development of an archive of historical audiovisual materials and records of lectures by eminent experts in international law. Historical events, especially those of the second half of the twentieth century and the period of the establishment and development of the United Nations system, should be addressed in a balanced manner.

27. The work of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs in offering assistance concerning participation in multilateral treaties, registration of treaties with the Secretariat and depositary practices was highly valued. It was important to consider other possible options for strengthening financial support for the Programme of Assistance, besides voluntary contributions.

28. **Ms. Gasu** (Ghana) said that the Codification Division had been diligent in fulfilling its responsibilities on the Programme of Assistance despite financial constraints. However, Member States should consider making adequate funding for the Programme under the regular budget a priority, especially since there had been general agreement that, while voluntary contributions were still welcome, the best solution to the funding problem was to seek regular budgetary provision for the activities of the Programme of Assistance.

29. As it had done in the past, her Government had made another modest contribution of US\$1,000 to the Programme's trust fund in 2012.

30. **Mr. Suku** (Tanzania) said that his Government welcomed the progress made by the Programme of Assistance, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/518), and noted with appreciation that a regional seminar on international law had been organized in Addis Ababa in 2012 for French-speaking lawyers in Africa. His Government welcomed the offer by the Government of Ethiopia to host another such seminar in 2013, and expressed its appreciation to the African Union and other States that had made voluntary contributions to facilitate implementation of the Programme of Assistance in Africa.

31. His Government welcomed the establishment of the African Institute of International Law to advance the teaching and development of international law on that continent, and called for a stronger partnership with the Codification Division to that end.

32. His Government called on Member States to revisit the issue of financing of the Programme of Assistance, including the possibility of funding it through the regular budget, and stood ready to support every effort aimed at enhancing the quality and outreach of the Programme.

*The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.*