

STATEMENT BY DR. RATNA DE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 80 –
'UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY,
DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AT THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
OCTOBER 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

As I am speaking first time in this Committee, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assuming the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of Bureau on their election.



Mr. Chairman,

This agenda item, which is aimed to promote the international law, is of high importance given the fact that one of the principal goals of the international community remains establishing the sound international legal norms to govern the international relations. We are convinced that better knowledge of international law certainly serves as a means of strengthening peace and security and promotes friendly relations between States. We are happy that this topic is on the agenda of the Sixth Committee for consideration on annual basis.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General A/66/505 of 07 October 2011, presented on this agenda item pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/25 of 06 December 2010. The report provides information concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the current year, in accordance with the

guidelines and recommendations contained in Secretary-General's report presented at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The report provides information about the international law seminars and training courses conducted through the fellowship programme, especially to the lawyers from developing countries. It gives information about the Hague Academy lectures and the seminars organized by the Codification Division on a wide range of international law topics.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree, as stated in paragraph 15 of the report that the regional courses on international law provide unique opportunity to participants to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common concern in the region. It makes the participants to understand the international legal system and functioning thereof that further develops the sense of co-existence and brotherhood.

We note with appreciation that a regional seminar on international law topics was organized in Addis Ababa in February 2011 for lawyers from the African countries. In addition to imparting the knowledge of international law to the lawyers of African region, this event gave an opportunity to the officials of the African Union to elaborate upon their approach towards the human rights and the peace and security, when the participants paid a visit to the Union. We welcome the offer of the government of Ethiopia indicating willingness to further host regional courses on international law including the one proposed in Addis Ababa in March 2012.

We also appreciate offers of Thailand and Mexico for hosting international law courses in the Asian and the Caribbean regions respectively. It is also encouraging to note that The Hague Academy of International Law has the interest in cooperating with the Codification Division with respect to the fellowship programme to include the regional courses on international law.

Mr. Chairman,

We have great appreciation for States who have voluntarily contributed to the Programme of Assistance and attach great value to even a small contribution toward this important task.

The Secretary-General's report has indicated about the resource constraints in pursuing the activities concerning the Programme of Assistance in the biennium 2012-2013. In that regard, we support the idea of exploring the possibilities of meeting the financial requirements of these activities from the regular budget, to ensure the continuation thereof. In our view, it serves the interest of the international community as a whole to

encourage the continuation and further strengthening of international law programmes and training courses around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, we express our appreciation for the Office of Legal Affairs, the Codification Division and other agencies and offices for their continued efforts towards the arrangements for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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