



United Nations Sixth Committee – 77th Session

Statement of Ireland

on Agenda item 87:

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

20 October 2022

Statement by Aoife Ní Chearbhaill, legal adviser

Thank you, Mr Chair.

1. Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and makes these additional comments in our national capacity.
2. My delegation is grateful to the Secretary General for his informative report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the reporting period.
3. Ireland thanks the Advisory Committee in assisting the Secretary General in the exercise of the functions entrusted to him by the General Assembly in relation to the Programme.
4. We note that this is the first year that the funding of the Programme has been moved under the UN’s regular budget. However, it is clear from the Secretary

General's report that voluntary contributions are still needed. Ireland therefore strongly encourages all Member States to consider providing financial support to the Programme.

Mr Chair,

5. A commitment to the rule of international law is enshrined in the Irish Constitution and is one of the core principles of Irish foreign policy. Furthermore, Ireland believes that better knowledge of international law can assist in achieving the principles and purposes of the United Nations, most notably the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations.
6. It is in this light that Ireland is a committed supporter of the Programme of Assistance, and acknowledges its role as a core function of the United Nations. Ireland is pleased to reaffirm our support through our recurrent national contributions to the Programme's various funds.
7. Mr Chair, I would like to highlight three of the Programme's activities that Ireland has contributed to.
8. Firstly, Ireland particularly values the work of the **UN regional courses** in international law. These courses are an important tool for students from developing countries and can strengthen and enhance national capacities in international law. They provide a solid structure for young professionals to develop their legal knowledge and to build a network of contacts that can provide mutually beneficial opportunities during their career.
9. My delegation acknowledges the role of the Codification Division in responding to the challenges resulting from the Covid-19, and commends the effectiveness of its work in organising and offering online workshops while the in-person regional courses could not be held.

10. Secondly, my delegation would also like to highlight the contribution of the **Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea** to enhancing specialised knowledge of oceans and maritime law. We note the disruption that the impact of Covid-19 has had on this fellowship, and we hope that the candidate awarded the 2020 fellowship can take up the fellowship in-person next year.
11. Finally, Ireland recognises the contribution of the **United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law**. This invaluable resource extends the reach and scope of the Programme of Assistance through its series of high quality and informative lectures.
12. Ireland notes the immense content of the library and acknowledges the ongoing efforts to broaden the linguistic and the geographical diversity among the contributors to it. My delegation supports the Advisory Committee's proposal for the development of a modern, user-friendly website, to showcase the depth of the library. An updated website is required to encourage greater use of this innovative tool, and will allow for the dissemination of its content to a wider audience.
13. Ireland is pleased to have made contributions to these and other initiatives of the UN Programme of Assistance during 2022, albeit after the reporting period ending in August.
14. In conclusion Mr Chair, Ireland remains strongly committed to the work of the Programme of Assistance and is proud of our continuing engagement with the Programme.
15. I thank you.