



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY H.E. MR. PETER THOMSON, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77, ON AGENDA ITEM 80 ENTITLED "REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 16 OCTOBER, 2013)**

**Mr Chairman,**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 80 entitled Report of the Secretary General on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. It is a pleasure to see you chairing this Committee, Mr Chairman, and we would like to congratulate you and the members of your bureau on your election.

2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, which provides a detailed account of activities undertaken to implement the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

to finance 25% of the cost, and there are no resources for a second course in that region. Moreover, by the end of 2013, the Audiovisual Library of International Law could be completely discontinued.

5. The sustainability of this commendable programme, which results are seen every day in the work of state lawyers and of delegates to the UN and other organizations, will clearly be affected by the fact that voluntary contributions has not succeeded in sustaining the programme. This is a critical time for the Programme of Assistance. The whole programme is at risk. We need to be conscious of that. The Report of the Secretary General is clear, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are also clear. The G77 and China cannot accept the inevitable outcome if adequate resources, including regular budgetary funding, are not secured for the effective implementation of the programme.

6. In light of the financial situation of the programme, the Foreign Ministers of G77 and China agreed in a Ministerial Declaration adopted during their meeting on 26 September 2013 at the UN