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Operating for over four decades, the Programme of Assistance has proven to be effective in fulfilling need to teach, study and disseminate knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States.

In particular, Australia supports the comprehensive range of activities in the Programme of Assistance which encourage greater participation in the development of international law and contribute to better knowledge of international law. From the Audiovisual Library of International Law a unique, multimedia educational tool, to the Regional Courses in International Law providing high-quality interactive training targeted to officials from developing countries.

This year, Australia was pleased to make an unprecedented US\$150,000

Africa. Over 30 participants from the African region participated in the Course held in Addis Ababa, with the participants sharing experiences and exchanging ideas to facilitate greater understanding and cooperation on legal matters in the region.

In light of , it is clear that a world order based on the rule of law is key to strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. These are the precise objectives the Programme of Assistance strives to achieve, and its operation continues to be important.

Australia is concerned that the Programme of Assistance has been hindered by a lack of funding. As the Secretariat has described, the Programme is