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**Statement by Dr. T. Suka Mangisi, Charge' d' Affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations on behalf of the Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) on Item 77: Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law at the Sixth Committee of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York, 17th October 2014**

Mr. Chairman

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) represented at the United Nations, namely the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country, Tonga.

And given this is the first time our Group is taking the floor in your Committee, may I add our voices to those before me in previous days in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chair and to assure you of our Group's support in your Committee's work. Please allow us to likewise congratulate the members of your Bureau for their election to their various posts. We are confident with their support, you will guide the proceedings of your Committee to a fruitful and productive conclusion.

Mr. Chairman

At its 68th session, the General Assembly through its resolution 68/110 authorized the Secretary-General to continue to further develop activities specified in his report, as approved in the

It is under this basis that PSIDS wishes to express its concern in the continued insufficient funding and the lack of regular budgetary funding for the Programme of Assistance, and as a result the cancelation of the Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific in 2014 again. We note the Advisory Committee is also concerned in this regard, as stated in its report from its 49th session. It also concerns PSIDS that the provisions intended last year have not all been implemented. We recognize the efforts highlighted in the Advisory Committee report of its 49th session to strengthen, revitalize and expand the Programme of Assistance to continue to