

Statement by Ambassador Dr. Palitha Kohona
Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
to the UN

Sixth Committee, 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Agenda Item
77:

"United Nations Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study,
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law"
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Mr. Chairman,

We align ourselves with the statement made by the delegation of Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China.

An increased understanding and wider appreciation of international law is vital for promoting orderly interactions between States, strengthening peace and security and furthering the rule of law at international and national levels. The Program of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law has, for several decades, contributed to strengthening and promoting of the rule of law by educating and training many Government officials and others of both developed and developing countries.

International law resources, legal publications, regional courses as well as the revitalization of the International Law Fellowship Program are beneficial for every Member State. The high volume of applications to this prestigious international law fellowship program every year is a testament to the quality of the teaching and interactions, both with leading scholars and legal practitioners as well as with fellow participants. We also acknowledge the benefits of the training program on treaty law and practice to international lawyers, especially in developing countries.

Given the enormous benefits attributed to the Program of Assistance, the lack of sufficient funding that threatens the continuity of its activities in the immediate future is a concern to many delegations. Of late, the Audiovisual Library (AVL), which provides access to a wealth of international law related materials via the Internet to countless users in both the developed and developing world, is also in danger of being discontinued if regular funding is not provided.

The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea (HSA), created in memory of the late Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, the first President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, is also experiencing severe

financial stress. HSA is open to candidates from developing nations to pursue research in ocean affairs, particularly the law of the sea. You will recall that Shirley Amarasinghe chaired the law of the Sea negotiations during a critical period. As the knowledge dissemination process is central to the sustenance of maritime peace and security, we encourage state parties to make contributions to this fellowship program to ensure its continuation.

We welcome the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to include funding for the HSA scholarship in the regular budget with effect from 2016-2017 biennium. We appreciate the efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for its efforts in sustaining the Amerasinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Chairman.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation to provide additional funding under the proposed program budget for biennium 2016-17 for the regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and for the further development of the UN Audio Visual library is timely. We would like to appeal to all Member States to cooperate at 6th and 5th Committees to ensure that the Advisory Committee's recommendations are effectively implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that these important activities under the UN Program of Assistance will be sustained and that future generations of legal practitioners will continue to derive benefits from the Program.

I Thank You.