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

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/107](#). It covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the reporting period, as well as the activities planned for 2025 and the related administrative and financial implications.



I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 78/107, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (A/78/514), submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. In paragraph 29 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2024 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years.

2. The present report provides information concerning the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during the reporting period, as well as the activities planned for 2025 and the related administrative and financial implications.

II. Implementation of the Programme of Assistance

3. The Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance. The Division performs various functions in connection with the implementation of the Programme, such as organizing and conducting the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the International Law Fellowship Programme, preparing and issuing publications, developing and maintaining the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and the website of the Programme of Assistance, preparing reports of the Secretary-General and providing secretariat services to the Advisory Committee and the Sixth Committee on the related agenda item.

4. The present section contains an overview of the implementation of the activities under the Programme of Assistance as they relate to the training programmes (in chronological order), the Audiovisual Library, international law training materials, desktop publishing, dissemination and the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. The deteriorating liquidity situation of the Organization and the cash conservation measures implemented to address the situation have had a significant impact on the implementation of activities of the Programme during the period under review, as set forth in more detail below.

A. Training programmes

1. United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

5. The three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean provide an important vehicle for expanding the international law training opportunities available to participants from developing countries, given the limited number of participants who can be accommodated in the International Law Fellowship Programme.¹ The Regional Courses provide training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core topics of international law. They also provide

¹ Since 2011, the Codification Division has conducted the Regional Courses as a necessary cost-saving measure to increase the number of fellowships and better meet the increasing demand for international law training. All administrative, financial and practical arrangements, such as travel and accommodation, were previously entrusted to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, which required funding for its Professional and General Service staff members who performed those services over a period of approximately six months for each Regional Course.

participants with an opportunity to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common interest to their region, with a view to promoting greater understanding and cooperation on such issues.

(a) Asia-Pacific

6. The Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific was held at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok from 13 November to 6 December 2023. The Regional Course was conducted in English. Applications were received from 92 candidates (53 men and 39 women) from 24 countries. In total, 23 participants (11 men and 12 women) attended the course, with 20 participants (11 men and 9 women) receiving fellowships and 3 (all women) attending on a self-funded basis.

7. The participants were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, Viet Nam and the State of Palestine.²

8. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (D. Akande, University of Oxford and International Law Commission); "Diplomatic and consular relations" (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon and International Law Commission), "Law of the sea" (A. Miron, University of Angers and practitioner); "International human rights law" (H. Tigroudja, University of Aix-Marseille and Human Rights Committee); "International environmental law", "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner); "International Law in Asia-Pacific" (V. Mangklatanakul, International Law Commission); "International humanitarian law/International criminal law" (W. L. Cheah, National University of Singapore); "State responsibility" (F. Lusa Bordin, University of Cambridge); "Law of treaties" (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" and "International peace and security" (P. Okowa, Queen Mary University of London and International Law Commission).

(b) Africa

9. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, from 22 February to 15 March 2024. The Regional Course was conducted in French. Applications were received from 211 candidates (164 men and 47 women) from 22 countries. A total of 24 participants (14 men and 10 women) attended the course, with 20 participants (10 men and 10 women) receiving fellowships and 4 (all men) attending on a self-funded basis.

10. The participants were from Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal and Togo.³

11. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (J. Viñuales, University of Cambridge, and practitioner); "Law of treaties" (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal

² Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/asia/participants_2023.pdf. A fellow was selected from Mongolia; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course.

³ Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/africa/participants_2024.pdf. Three fellows were selected from Gabon, the Niger and Togo; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course.

Affairs); “Law of the sea” (Y. Cissé, International Law Commission); “International peace and security” and “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (F. Zarbiyev, Geneva Graduate Institute); “State responsibility” (M. Kawano, Waseda University); “Diplomatic and consular relations” (A. Miron, University of Angers and practitioner); “International human rights law” (A. Fathalla, International Law Commission); “International humanitarian law/International criminal law” (A. Lagerwall, Free University of Brussels); “International environmental law”, “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner); and “The law and institutions of the African Union” (H. Gueldich, African Union and University of Carthage). A study visit to the African Union was also arranged, during which staff members of the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union gave a briefing to participants on the work of the Office.

12. As planning and implementation for the Regional Course had begun before cash conservation measures were announced, the activity was conducted as initially envisaged. However, to reduce its impact on liquidity, some of the expenses of the Regional Course were funded from extrabudgetary resources.

(c) Latin America and the Caribbean

13. The Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, from 27 May to 14 June 2024. The Regional Course was conducted in English. Applications were received from 104 candidates (40 men and 64 women) from 25 countries. A total of 19 participants (8 men and 11 women) attended the course, with 16 participants (7 men and 9 women) receiving fellowships and 3 (1 man and 2 women) attending on a self-funded basis.

14. The participants were from Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).⁴

15. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): “Introduction to international law” and “Diplomatic and consular relations” (A. Tzanakopoulos, University of Oxford and practitioner); “Law of treaties” (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); “International environmental law” (S. Atapattu, University of Wisconsin-Madison); “State responsibility” (S. Villalpando, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization); “International peace and security” and “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (P. Okowa, Queen Mary University of London and International Law Commission); “Inter-American international law” (M. T. Infante Caffi, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and University of Chile); “Law of the sea” (F. Armas Pfirter, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and University of Buenos Aires); “International human rights law” (V. Fikfak, University College London); “International humanitarian law” (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. Paparinskis, University College London and International Law Commission).

16. The liquidity situation had a significant impact on the Regional Course, as its planning and implementation was delayed owing to the uncertainty regarding access to regular budget funds. In addition, ECLAC informed the Office of Legal Affairs that it was unable to provide its regular contributions to the Regional Course free of charge, which required the Office to negotiate and agree on cost-recovery fees to be

⁴ Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/laac/participants_2024.pdf. A fellow was selected from Haiti; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course. In addition, a self-funded participant from Chile informed the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course.

paid to ECLAC. As a result of those impacts, the Regional Course was conducted in 15 days instead of the planned 17 days of training, and with 16 fully funded fellows instead of the 20 initially planned.

2. International Law Fellowship Programme

17. The International Law Fellowship Programme provides comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems.⁵ The participants attend seminars organized by the Codification Division on a broad range of core topics of international law, as well as the public international law session of the Summer Course of The Hague Academy of International Law. Study visits are also arranged by the Division for the participants.

18. The International Law Fellowship Programme was held in The Hague from 1 July to 2 August 2024 and was conducted in English. A total of 905 applications (465 men and 440 women) were received from candidates from 126 countries (461 applications from Africa, 318 from Asia-Pacific, 28 from Eastern Europe, 91 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 7 from Western Europe and other States). A total of 21 participants (10 men and 11 women) attended the Programme, with 20 participants (10 men and 10 women) receiving fellowships and 1 (a woman) attending on a self-funded basis.

19. The participants were from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Chile, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Georgia, Guyana, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Panama, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.⁶

20. The seminars organized by the Codification Division consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (M. C. Londoño Lazaro, University of La Sabana); "Law of the sea" (K. Marciniak, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "The International Law Commission" (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "International peace and security" (F. Zarbiyev, Geneva Graduate Institute); "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner); "State responsibility" (X. Fuentes Torrijo, University of Chile); "International humanitarian law" (A. Lagerwall, Free University of Brussels); "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, University of Geneva and practitioner); "Law of treaties" (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "Treaty-making at the United Nations" (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (Y. Tanaka, University of Copenhagen); "International human rights law" (H. Tigroudja, University of Aix-Marseille and Human Rights Committee); "Diplomatic and consular relations" (A. Miron, University of Angers and practitioner); "Procedures before the International Court of Justice" (International Court of Justice); and "International trade law" (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs). A guided visit to the Peace Palace was also arranged.

21. Participants also attended the public international law session of the Summer Course organized by The Hague Academy of International Law, held in person from 8 to 26 July 2023. The programme of the Summer Course included the following lectures: "International law and incomplete decolonization" (inaugural lecture) (M. Kamto, University of Yaoundé, International Law Commission (former Chair and

⁵ Since 2010, as a necessary cost-saving measure to increase the number of fellowships provided through the regular budget, the Fellowship Programme in The Hague has been conducted by the Codification Division (see A/65/514, para. 12).

⁶ Additional information about the participants is available at https://legal.un.org/poa/ilfp/pdf/ilfp_2024_participants.pdf. A fellow was selected from Peru; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Fellowship Programme.

member)); “States, international organizations and courts as organs of international law” (general course) (E. Benvenisti, University of Cambridge); “Genocide and the dual international responsibility of individuals and States” (P. Gaeta, Geneva Graduate Institute); “Space law in the twenty-first century” (S. Hobe, University of Cologne); “Disagreement reduced to writing: re-thinking the law of treaties” (J. Klabbers, University of Helsinki); “International intellectual property and global challenges” (E. Kwakwa, World Intellectual Property Organization); “Ethics in international law” (I. A. Motoc, University of Bucharest, International Criminal Court); and “Digital activities and international law” (A.-T. Norodom, University of Paris Cité).

22. The liquidity situation had an impact on the Fellowship Programme, as its planning and implementation was delayed owing to the uncertainty regarding access to regular budget funds.

3. Alumni network of participants of the training programmes organized under the Programme of Assistance

23. In its resolution [73/201](#), the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to support the establishment of alumni networks of participants of the training programmes organized under the Programme of Assistance. The Division continued to update a shared online repository of international law materials and publications, which is available to all members of the alumni network.

B. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

24. Traditional in-person training programmes offer unique advantages in terms of promoting in-depth discussions, interaction and cooperation among participants. In response to the increasing demand for international law training that could not be met solely by its traditional training programmes, the Codification Division created the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in 2008. With the Audiovisual Library, the United Nations has the capacity to provide, at a relatively low cost, high-quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the world, free of charge, through the Internet.

25. The Audiovisual Library is a virtual training and research centre featuring content from leading international law scholars, judges and practitioners from different countries and legal systems who contribute to its three pillars: the Lecture Series, which includes the Mini-Series; the Historic Archives; and the Research Library.

26. The Lecture Series contains more than 600 lectures, accompanied by lists of related materials linking to reference documents available online, on a broad range of topics of international law. The lectures and related legal materials are intended to provide a comprehensive educational resource for academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. The Mini-Series consists of a series of lectures delivered by leading international law scholars that is aimed at providing a general overview of core topics of international law, primarily intended for users with basic or little knowledge of international law. All lectures in the Lecture Series are available both on the website and on the podcast of the Audiovisual Library.

27. The liquidity situation had a significant impact on the Audiovisual Library during the period under review, as temporary restrictions on hiring across the Secretariat did not allow for the recruitment of a video producer and webmaster. As a result, no lectures were recorded during the reporting period. However, eight previously recorded lectures were added to the Lecture Series.

28. The Historic Archives contain introductory notes written by leading authorities, as well as procedural histories, related documents and archival audiovisual materials

prepared by the Division on 112 legal instruments.⁷ During the period under review, the Division added one introductory note to the Historic Archives.

29. The Research Library provides an extensive online library consisting of treaties, jurisprudence, publications, documents, scholarly writings and training materials, including the *International Law Handbook*, a four-volume publication of the Division in English and French used as the main resource in the four in-person training programmes. During the period under review, the Division was unable to update the section relating to moot court competitions held in academic institutions.

30. Since its creation in 2008, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by over 3.4 million users in 193 Member States and non-member States.⁸ Information concerning new content included in the Library continues to be disseminated through the *Journal of the United Nations*, iSeek, Delegate, social media and specialized international law blogs.⁹ In addition, the Division has made significant efforts to facilitate access to the lectures for users with limited high-speed Internet on computers and mobile devices through the Library podcast.

C. International law training materials

31. The Codification Division researches, collects and prepares legal materials in hard copy, in consultation with the lecturers, for its international law training programmes. In addition, USB flash drives containing the training materials and legal publications of the Division and other international law materials are provided to facilitate electronic research for participants in developing countries with limited access to the Internet.¹⁰ The training materials are also made available for academic use on the websites of the respective training programmes and on the website of the Audiovisual Library, free of charge.

32. The Division continues to use the *International Law Handbook*, in both its English and French versions, in paper and digital format, as the main resource for its training programmes. The *Handbook* is also disseminated to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law around the world. It is available, free of charge, from the Audiovisual Library and may be reproduced for academic purposes to further the teaching and dissemination of international law.¹¹

33. The *Handbook* has also been disseminated in other training programmes organized by the Office of Legal Affairs. During the period under review, copies of the *Handbook* in French were distributed in paper and digital format to the participants in and observers of the subregional workshop on international law for Francophone countries of East Africa and the Indian Ocean, which was held in Djibouti from 13 to 15 February 2024.

⁷ Legal materials for the Historic Archives and the Lecture Series are provided in all official languages of the Organization.

⁸ While the podcast was created primarily for the benefit of users in developing countries, it continues to be accessed primarily by users in developed countries.

⁹ Aquiescencia; EJIL: Talk!, blog of the European Journal of International Law; International Law Reporter; Multipol – Réseau d'analyse et d'information sur l'actualité internationale; and Opinio Juris.

¹⁰ The Codification Division purchases legal publications and other essential United Nations publications, including the Charter of the United Nations, for use in its training programmes.

¹¹ Available at <http://legal.un.org/avl/handbook.html>.

D. Desktop publishing

34. Since 2003, the Codification Division has been using desktop publishing, on a voluntary basis and subject to available resources, to expedite the issuance of some of its legal publications and to make them available to the international legal community in a timely manner.¹² During the reporting period, the Division continued its desktop publishing activities and finalized the publication of the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (2018–2022)* in English and French. Work continued on preparations for the publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook (2017 and 2018)*, as well as the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*, vol. XXXV. In addition, the following translations were issued during the period under review: *The Work of the International Law Commission (10th ed.)* in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

E. Dissemination

35. The dissemination of legal publications and information through the Internet and other electronic media is intended to supplement the limited number of hard copies, without prejudice to the unique value of printed materials for legal research and education, in particular for users in developing countries with limited access to the Internet. The materials are provided free of charge on the Internet to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law (see annex).

F. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

36. Ms. Maria Mercedes Arevalo Aranaga of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was awarded the 2024 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. The cost of each individual fellowship varies from year to year, from approximately \$50,000 to \$75,000, excluding the 13 per cent programme support costs and 15 per cent operational reserve (for the fund balance, see para. 38). The differences are due to several highly variable factors, including the stipend rates applicable in the cities of the host institutions, currency exchange rates, airfare and the duration of the fellowship.¹³

¹² See General Assembly resolutions [64/113](#), [65/25](#), [66/97](#), [67/91](#), [68/110](#), [69/117](#), [70/116](#) and [71/139](#), in which the Assembly expressed its appreciation for the desktop publishing initiative undertaken by the Division from 2003 to 2013 and recommended that the necessary resources be made available to resume that successful initiative. The Division will continue to explore ways of sustaining its desktop publishing efforts in 2025 and beyond, subject to the availability of resources.

¹³ The administrative assistance initially provided by the Codification Division in the 1980s and early 1990s gradually decreased after the former Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea became part of the Office of Legal Affairs in 1992. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea is entrusted with matters related to the law of the sea, including technical capacity-building, to avoid duplication of work and to ensure the proper administration of the fellowship. Since 2010, the fellowship has been administered solely by that Division as part of its provision of technical capacity-building with respect to the law of the sea. Additional information on the fellowship will be provided in the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, which will be considered under the agenda item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2025

37. In 2025, the Codification Division plans to carry out the activities under the Programme of Assistance in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (see [A/78/514](#), sect. V) and approved by the General Assembly.

38. Regarding the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, the current fund balance available for disbursement, taking into account programme support costs, is estimated to be approximately \$98,000.

IV. Administrative and financial implications of the Programme of Assistance

A. During the reporting period

39. In its resolution [78/107](#), the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2024, the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and to continue to develop the Audiovisual Library, to be financed from provisions in the regular budget, as well as, when necessary, voluntary contributions.

40. Regarding the funding provided for the Programme of Assistance, a total of \$1,134,500 was requested for the regular budget for 2024 under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, for the Fellowship Programme, the Regional Courses and the Audiovisual Library.

41. In its resolution [78/107](#), the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion. Accordingly, a note verbale was sent in February and July 2024 to Member States to draw their attention to resolution [78/107](#) and request voluntary contributions.

42. Since the previous report, voluntary contributions have been made for the activities under the Programme of Assistance as follows: (a) for the Programme in general, from China (\$27,000), Cyprus (\$2,200), France (\$70,000), Ireland (\$6,000), Qatar (\$20,000) and Singapore (\$5,000); (b) for the Audiovisual Library, from Czechia (\$2,143), Finland (\$4,374), Ireland (\$12,000), Poland (\$3,500) and Spain (\$5,268); (c) for the International Law Fellowship Programme, from Ireland (\$12,000); and (d) for the Regional Courses in International Law, from Finland (\$4,374) and Ireland (\$12,000).

43. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, the Government of Thailand provided accommodation and daily morning and evening meals for fellows, provided ground transportation in Bangkok for participants and lecturers, hosted a welcome dinner and organized two cultural visits at which lunches for attendees were also provided. ESCAP provided the training venue and a room for the opening ceremony, office space and equipment for staff of the Codification Division, dining facilities, equipment and significant administrative and operational support.

44. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Africa, the African Union assisted in disseminating information about the course, provided support during the course, conducted a visit of its premises and gave a briefing by staff members of the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union. ECA provided the training venue, office space for staff of the Codification Division, dining facilities, equipment and significant administrative and operational support.

45. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government of Chile organized a cultural visit for participants and lecturers. ECLAC provided the training venue and the room for the opening ceremony, office space for staff of the Codification Division and dining facilities. Equipment and administrative and operational support were also provided by ECLAC, on a cost-recovery basis.

46. With regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme, The Hague Academy of International Law provided a reduced tuition rate for the fellows, as well as operational support for the Programme. The Carnegie Foundation provided the training venue and technical support. The Peace Palace Library, managed by the Carnegie Foundation, provided the fellows with library access and research support and organized a guided tour of its collection. The Registry of the International Court of Justice provided significant administrative and operational support for the Programme and organized a guided tour of the Peace Palace for fellows.

47. Publications were provided in hard copy free of charge for distribution to the participants in the Regional Course in International Law for Africa by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

48. Since the previous report, contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea have been received from Ireland (\$15,000) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$3,154).

B. During the 2025 budget period

49. Pursuant to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution [78/107](#), resources totalling \$1,168,700 have been proposed in the regular budget for 2025 under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, to implement the activities under the Programme of Assistance, namely the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Regional Courses in International Law and the further development, dissemination and maintenance of the Audiovisual Library.

1. International Law Fellowship Programme and United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

50. The resources included in the proposed programme budget will provide for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, to be conducted in 2025 in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions. The resources will be used to fund fellowships (covering travel, accommodation, health insurance, study materials and a stipend for living expenses) for a minimum of 20 professionals from developing countries and countries with emerging economies to attend each of the training programmes, as well as to conduct and facilitate the training programmes.

51. The Codification Division will continue to make every effort to increase the number of fellowships provided under the regular budget for the Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in order to meet, to the extent possible, the strong demand for international law training. The Division will also seek voluntary contributions to award additional full or partial fellowships and will, whenever possible, admit a limited number of participants on a self-funded basis.

2. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

52. The resources included in the programme budget will provide for two full-time positions, namely one position of Legal Officer (P-3) and one position of Video Producer (General Service (Other level)), funded from general temporary assistance. The positions are essential to ensure the further development, dissemination and maintenance of the Audiovisual Library in 2025, including its Lecture Series and Mini-Series, Historic Archives and Research Library. The programme budget will also be used to conduct off-site recordings of lectures at various locations to record lecturers who are not regularly in New York. In addition, the resources will be used to obtain necessary technical supplies and materials.

53. The Secretary-General will continue to request voluntary and in-kind contributions to the Programme of Assistance, in particular to provide for additional fellowships for the training programmes and the further development of the Audiovisual Library, including to promote greater access in developing countries.

V. Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

A. Membership

54. The General Assembly, by its resolution [78/107](#), decided to appoint the following 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027: Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America.

B. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General by the Advisory Committee at its fifty-ninth session

55. The fifty-ninth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 3 October 2024, was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Harold Adlai Agyeman. Markus Pallek, Principal Legal Officer in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, served as Secretary.

56. The following members attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa and United States of America. Thailand, in its capacity as host country for the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, attended the meeting as observer.

57. The Secretary made a statement in which he updated the information contained in the draft report and drew attention to the continuing efforts of the Office of Legal

Affairs to strengthen the activities under the Programme of Assistance. He regretted that the deteriorating liquidity situation of the Organization during the reporting period had an impact on the implementation of certain activities. He highlighted the growing demand for capacity-building in international law, as well as the efforts of the Secretariat to conduct the Regional Courses in International Law and the International Law Fellowship Programme as mandated. The Secretary also regretted that work on the further development of the Audiovisual Library, as well as on the update of its website, was halted due to the liquidity situation. He also highlighted the legal publications released during the reporting period, in both digital and print formats, in all the official languages of the United Nations.

58. The Advisory Committee expressed its strong support for the Programme of Assistance, as well as its deep concern at the impact of the liquidity situation of the Organization on the Programme and its activities. In that regard, the Advisory Committee urged the Secretariat to strive for the full implementation of the Programme's activities in the future. The Committee took note that all four training programmes conducted under the mandate of the Programme were held during the period under review. While recognizing the efforts of the Office in ensuring gender and regional balance among participants and lecturers of the training programmes, the Committee reiterated its call to continue diversifying the pool of lecturers, and proposals were made to that effect. Calls were also made to increase the number of fellowships and to ensure space for self-funded participants at the training programmes. The increasing number of applications to the training programmes was also noted. The Committee recalled the important role of the Audiovisual Library of International Law in the dissemination of knowledge in international law, and urged the Office to continue developing its content. Proposals were made to expand the linguistic diversity of the Audiovisual Library and to explore the use of established and emerging technologies to curate and produce audiovisual content. The Committee welcomed efforts towards disseminating information and materials in international law, particularly in printed format, and suggested exploring further opportunities for dissemination. A call was made to consider ways in which infrastructure limitations impacting access to the offerings of the Programme of Assistance in the target countries could be addressed.

Annex

Websites maintained by the Codification Division

<i>Website</i>	<i>Uniform resource locator</i>
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	https://legal.un.org/poa/
International Law Fellowship Programme	https://legal.un.org/poa/ilfp/
United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean	https://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/
United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States	https://legal.un.org/poa/seminar.html
United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law	https://legal.un.org/avl/
United Nations legal publications portal	https://legal.un.org/cod/publications.shtml
Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs	https://legal.un.org/repertory
United Nations Juridical Yearbook	https://legal.un.org/unjuridicalyearbook
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice	https://legal.un.org/icjsummaries
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the Permanent Court of International Justice	https://legal.un.org/PCIJsummaries
Reports of International Arbitral Awards	https://legal.un.org/riaa
United Nations Legislative Series	https://legal.un.org/legislativeseries
Codification and Progressive Development of International Law	https://legal.un.org/cod
Sixth Committee of the General Assembly	https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/
International Law Commission	https://legal.un.org/ilc
Diplomatic conferences (official records of proceedings)	https://legal.un.org/diplomaticconferences
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	https://legal.un.org/committees/charter
Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission	https://legal.un.org/committees/criminal_accountability
Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations	https://legal.un.org/committees/admin_of_justice
Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996	https://legal.un.org/committees/terrorism
Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property	https://legal.un.org/committees/immunities

Website

Uniform resource locator

Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention
against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings

<https://legal.un.org/committees/cloning>

Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection
under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations
and Associated Personnel

https://legal.un.org/committees/safety_convention
