



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MR. MASIR ANAK KUJAT, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 78: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 65th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 22 OCTOBER 2010

Madam Chair,

Malaysia reaffirms its commitment towards the continuation of the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, and would like to thank the Office of Legal Affairs for its report as contained in A/65/514.

2. We note that after a hiatus of nearly five years, in which no regional courses were held, this year, a regional course in international law for lawyers from developing countries will be held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. Malaysia is pleased to participate in this regional course, and welcomes the funding provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency. We also welcome the proposal for a regional course in Africa in the first quarter of 2011.

3. There has been some progress in the Programme of Assistance in this past year. One was the re-start of the regional courses. Another is the increase in the number of fellowships awarded in 2010, thanks to the innovative measures undertaken by the Codification Division in the International Law Fellowship Programme. Malaysia is also pleased to welcome the tireless efforts of the Codification Division in clearing the backlog of the UN Juridical Yearbook, and notes that for practically the first time ever, the Juridical Yearbook is now on schedule, and that the 2009 Juridical Yearbook is available.

Madam Chair,

4. In all the successes charted by the Programme of Assistance, my delegation notes with concern, however, the dire financial straits now facing the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law. We understand that following the budget cuts of the Department of Public Information and the Office of Legal Affairs, the cost of maintaining the UN Audiovisual Library has now skyrocketed to US\$400,000 from the previous figure of US\$100,000. Even with an influx of voluntary contributions, the figure is now untenable. Therefore, new and innovative ways of financing this very important initiative must be found, and has to be found soon. The mere implementation of OP 19 in Resolution 64/113, which calls for voluntary contributions from Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other institutions and organizations may not be enough to cover the amount needed to keep the library afloat year after year.

5. In this regard, my delegation would like to explore the possibility of levying a fee on users of this library as a means to cover the shortfall in the amount needed.

6. Malaysia takes this opportunity to reiterate its appreciation to the Codification Division for the effort expanded in ensuring the wider dissemination of international law under this valuable programme.

Thank you, Madam Chair.