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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE

AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

BEFORE

**THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE
73TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

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

(AGENDA ITEM 81)

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(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr Chairperson,

Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement by the distinguished representative of the Gambia on behalf of the African Group. Namibia thanks the Secretary-General for his Report on this agenda item and we wish to express our profound appreciation for the invaluable work of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in implementing and further strengthening the activities under the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

Mr. Chairperson,

There is a direct nexus between the rule of International Law and our collective efforts aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is through the wider appreciation and application of International Law that we can maintain international peace and security which is a prerequisite for the promotion of social and economic development. It is also International Law that enables States to generally stand on an equal footing in their engagements to address the contemporary challenges the world is confronted with.

Given the foregoing, the role of the United Nations Programme of Assistance cannot be overemphasized especially due to its palpable benefits for developing countries. As an African Union Member State, Namibia, therefore, notes with great satisfaction paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's Report revealing that from the more than 260 applications that were received for the International Law Fellowship Programme, 191 were from Africa. This alacrity by African nationals is a clear indication of the value that Africa attaches to the Programme of Assistance, which was established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965 following an initiative by the Republic of Ghana.

Mr. Chairperson,

Equally important to achieve the intended results of the Programme of Assistance are the steps taken at national, regional and continental level in order to establish and/ or strengthen existing programmes of International Law. Continental initiatives such as the annual Forum on International Law under the auspices of the African Union have contributed greatly to the efforts of the United Nations as it has led to the accelerated dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law in Africa.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the years a number of Namibians have been able to enhance their intellectual horizons in the field of International Law through the United Nations Programme of Assistance by *inter alia* participating in the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa. The knowledge acquired by the government officials and other professionals who have attended the courses has contributed to the effective implementation of the general rules of public international law and the international agreements binding upon Namibia under Article 144 of its Constitution. Many practitioners and students of International Law in Namibia also continue to rely on the material and lecture series which are freely and easily accessible on the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. Namibia, therefore, expresses its commendation to the Codification Division for substantially increasing the quantity, and diversity, of the lectures available on the website of the Audiovisual Library. We will always support the work of the division as it continues to expand and improve the activities under the Programme Assistance.

I thank you.