



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 October 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 78

**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 [77/102](#). 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 2024 and the related administrative and financial implications.



I. Introduction

1. By its resolution [77/102](#), 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/77/515](#)), submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. In paragraph 29 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2023 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 2024 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.

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 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.

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.

(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 14 November to 7 December 2022. The Regional Course was conducted in English. Applications were received from 119 candidates from 36 countries. In total, 25 participants (12 men and 13 women) attended the course, with 20 receiving fellowships and 5 attending on a self-funded basis.

7. The participants were from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tonga, Türkiye and Yemen.²

8. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law", "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" and "International peace and security" (D. Tladi, University of Pretoria, International Law Commission (former Chair and member)); "State responsibility" (M. Kawano, Waseda University); "Law of the sea" (A. Miron, University of Angers and practitioner); "International environmental law", "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner); "Diplomatic and consular relations" (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon, International Law Commission), "International humanitarian law/International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Court Martial of New Zealand, Armed Forces of New Zealand, Victoria University of Wellington); "Case-study exercise" (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "Law of treaties" (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "The codification of international law" (V. Mangklatanakul, International Law Commission); and "International human rights law" (E. Salmón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru).³

(b) Africa

9. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, from 20 February to 14 March 2023. The Regional Course was conducted in English. Applications were received from 244 candidates (144 men and 100 women) from 41 countries. A total of 28 participants (14 men and 14 women) attended the course, with 21 participants receiving fellowships and 7 attending on a self-funded basis.

10. The participants were from Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.⁴

11. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (D. Tladi, University of Pretoria,

² Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/asia/participants_2022.pdf. Three fellows were selected from Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course. One self-funded participant from Thailand also notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course. Another self-funded participant from Thailand withdrew after the first week of the Regional Course owing to health-related issues.

³ The individual engaged to lecture on "International law in the Asia-Pacific region" could not participate in the Regional Course owing to a last-minute emergency.

⁴ Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/africa/participants_2023.pdf. One self-funded participant from Ghana and seven self-funded participants from Ethiopia notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course.

International Law Commission (former Chair and member)); “International human rights law” (D. Rodríguez-Pinzón, American University); “Law of the sea” (M. T. Infante Caffi, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and University of Chile); “International environmental law” (S. Atapattu, University of Wisconsin); “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner); “International humanitarian law/International criminal law” (P. Okowa, Queen Mary University of London and International Law Commission); “Law of treaties” (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); “International peace and security” (F. Zarbiyev, Geneva Graduate Institute); “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” and “The law and institutions of the African Union” (T. Maluwa, Penn State Law); “Diplomatic and consular relations” and “State responsibility” (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon, International Law Commission). 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.

(c) Latin America and the Caribbean

12. 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 8 to 30 May 2023. The Regional Course was conducted in English. Applications were received from 51 candidates (20 men and 31 women) from 20 countries. A total of 26 participants (12 men and 14 women) attended the course, with 20 receiving fellowships and six attending on a self-funded basis. These include seven of the participants selected to attend the 2020 Regional Course (one man and six women), who had expressed an interest in attending the 2023 Regional Course.⁵

13. The participants were from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).⁶

14. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): “Introduction to international law” (E. Salmón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru); “International human rights law” (T. Maluwa, Penn State Law); “International humanitarian law/International criminal law” (I. Hrdličková, Special Tribunal for Lebanon (former President and member)); “State responsibility”, “International peace and security” 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” (M. Orellana, George Washington University and practitioner); “Law of the sea” (Y. Tanaka, University of Copenhagen); “Inter-American International Law” (X. Fuentes Torrijo, University of Chile); “The legal work of ECLAC” (C. de Miguel and D. Barrio Lamarche, ECLAC); “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (M. C. Londoño, University of La Sabana); “International trade law” and “international investment law” (C. Giorgetti, University of Richmond and practitioner).

⁵ Owing to the outbreak of COVID-19, the 2020 Regional Course could not be held. Since preparations for the Regional Course were in the advanced stages, participants who had been selected were informed that they would be afforded priority consideration for the Regional Course when it could next be held.

⁶ Additional information about the participants is available at http://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/laac/participants_2023.pdf. Two fellows were selected from Brazil and Cuba; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course. One self-funded participant from Brazil also notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Regional Course.

2. International Law Fellowship Programme

15. The International Law Fellowship Programme provides comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems.⁷ 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.

16. The International Law Fellowship Programme was held in The Hague from 3 July to 4 August 2023 and was conducted in French. A total of 186 applications (127 men and 59 women) were received from candidates from 45 countries (including 140 applications from Africa, 9 from Asia-Pacific, 2 from Eastern Europe and 35 from Latin America and the Caribbean). A total of 21 participants (10 men and 11 women) attended the Programme.

17. The participants were from Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Philippines, Tunisia and Viet Nam.⁸

18. The seminars organized by the Codification Division consisted of (in chronological order): “Introduction to international law” (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); “Diplomatic and consular relations” (C. Escobar Hernández, National Distance Education University and International Law Commission (former member)); “International environmental law” (S. Maljean-Dubois, University of Aix Marseille); “The International Court of Justice” (P. Tomka, International Court of Justice); “International humanitarian law/International criminal law” (A. Lagerwall, Free University of Brussels); “Law of treaties” (D. Nanopoulos, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); “State responsibility” (L. Boisson de Chazournes, University of Geneva and practitioner); “International peace and security” (F. Zarbiyev, Geneva Graduate Institute); “International human rights law” (E. Salmón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru); “Law of the sea” and “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (S. Hamamoto, University of Kyoto and practitioner); and “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva and practitioner).⁹ A guided visit to the Peace Palace was also arranged, following a briefing by the Registrar of the International Court of Justice on the work of the Court.

19. Participants also attended the public international law session of the Summer Course organized by The Hague Academy of International Law, held in person, from 10 to 28 July 2023. The programme of the Summer Course included the following lectures: “The Hague Academy: A mirror on 100 years of international law” (inaugural lecture) (R. Higgins, International Court of Justice (former President and member)); “The human dimension of international law” (general course) (L. A. Sicilianos, University of Athens and European Court of Human Rights (former President and member)); “The inviolabilities of the diplomatic mission” (G. R. B. Galindo, University of Brasilia and International Law Commission); “The international law of disarmament – between idealism and realism” (J. M. Gomez-

⁷ 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).

⁸ Additional information about the participants is available at https://legal.un.org/poa/ilfp/pdf/ilfp_2023_participants.pdf. A fellow was selected from Paraguay; however, they notified the Secretariat that they could not attend the Fellowship Programme.

⁹ The individual engaged to lecture on “Introduction to international law” could not participate in the Fellowship Programme owing to a last-minute emergency.

Robledo, International Law Commission (former member)); “Making sense of soft law” (E. Hey, Erasmus University Rotterdam); “The methods and aims of post-colonial international law” (C. L. Lim, University of Hong Kong); “Applying municipal law in international legal disputes” (P. B. Stephan, University of Virginia); and “Armed conflicts and international human rights law” (H. Tigroudja, University of Aix-Marseille).

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

20. 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 organized an online interactive session for alumni on the following lecture of the Audiovisual Library: “The Legal Nature of Article 18 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties” (M. Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary University of London). The Division also 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

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. During the period under review, 35 lectures were recorded for the Lecture Series, including the Mini-Series. In order to promote broader linguistic diversity among the official languages of the United Nations and to record lecturers who are not regularly in New York, an off-site recording mission was conducted in The Hague during the reporting period. The recordings were held at the Peace Palace.¹⁰ A total of 20 lectures were recorded.

¹⁰ The Registry of the International Court of Justice facilitated the use of the Museum of the Court for the recordings.

25. 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.¹¹ During the period under review, the Division added three introductory notes to the Historic Archives.

26. 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. Furthermore, during the period under review, the Division continued to enrich the section relating to moot court competitions held in academic institutions. In this section, the Division compiles relevant Audiovisual Library lectures and materials on the topic of the specific competition to assist participants with their preparation. During the reporting period, relevant Library lectures and materials were added for the 2023 editions of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the Concours Charles-Rousseau, the Jean-Pictet Competition, the Inter American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition and the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

27. Since its creation in 2008, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by over 2.9 million users in 193 Member States and non-member States.¹² 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.¹³ 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

28. 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.¹⁴ 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.

29. 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, including the online workshops conducted in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. 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

¹¹ Legal materials for the Historic Archives and the Lecture Series are provided in all official languages of the Organization.

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

may be reproduced for academic purposes to further the teaching and dissemination of international law.¹⁵

30. 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 and observers of the Sub-regional Workshop in International Law for West Africa, which was held in Dakar on 8 and 9 May 2023.

D. Desktop publishing

31. 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.¹⁶ During the reporting period, the Division continued its desktop publishing activities and published the second edition of the *United Nations Legislative Series*, vol. 25, Materials on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts; *United Nations Legislative Series*, vol. 26, Materials on Provisional Application of Treaties; *The Work of the International Law Commission*, 10th ed., vols. I and II; and the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (2018–2022)*. Work also advanced 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 (9th ed.)*, in Arabic; *The Work of the International Law Commission (10th ed.)*, vol. I, in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish; *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2014), in Arabic and Spanish; *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2015), in Arabic and Spanish; and *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2016), in Chinese.

E. Dissemination

32. 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

33. Linda Bana of Ghana was awarded the 2020 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. However, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in particular, the restrictions on international travel and the closure of

¹⁵ Available at <http://legal.un.org/avl/handbook.html>.

¹⁶ 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 2023 and beyond, subject to the availability of resources.

the United Nations premises in New York, the fellowship was postponed to 2023 and is currently being undertaken by Ms. Bana. The cost of each individual fellowship varies from year to year, from approximately \$35,000 to \$60,000, excluding the 13 per cent programme support costs and 15 per cent operational reserve (for the fund balance, see para. 35). 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.¹⁷

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2024

34. In 2024, 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/77/515](#), sect. V) and approved by the General Assembly.

35. 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 \$158,000.

IV. Administrative and financial implications of the Programme of Assistance

A. During the reporting period

36. In its resolution [77/102](#), the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2023, 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.

37. The General Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to conduct interactive online workshops when the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean could not take place in person owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, from the existing available resources under the programme budget for the Programme of Assistance and from the voluntary contributions.

38. Regarding the funding provided for the Programme of Assistance, a total of \$1,049,272 was requested for the regular budget for 2023 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.

¹⁷ 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".

39. In its resolution [77/102](#), 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 2023 to Member States to draw their attention to resolution [77/102](#) and request voluntary contributions.

40. 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 Austria (\$5,253), China (\$54,000), France (\$52,085), Italy (\$10,000), Panama (\$2,200), the Philippines (\$30,000), Portugal (\$10,643), Saudi Arabia (\$5,000) and Singapore (\$5,000); (b) for the Audiovisual Library: from Austria (\$2,103), Czechia (\$4,293), Finland (\$10,639), Ireland (\$5,000), Poland (\$2,500) and Slovakia (\$10,509); (c) for the International Law Fellowship Programme: from Ireland (\$5,000); and (d) for the Regional Courses in International Law: from Finland (\$10,639) and Ireland (\$5,000).

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government of Chile organized a cultural visit and lunch for participants and lecturers. ECLAC provided the training venue and the room for the opening ceremony, office space for staff of the Codification Division, dining facilities, equipment and significant administrative and operational support.

44. 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.

45. Publications were provided in hard copy free of charge for distribution to the participants in one or more of the training programmes by the following entities: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and the Department of Global Communications.

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

46. Since the previous report, contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea have been received from Ireland (\$7,480) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$3,182).

B. During the 2024 budget period

47. Pursuant to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution [77/102](#), resources totalling \$1,134,500 have been proposed in the regular budget for 2024 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

48. 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 2024 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.

49. 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

50. 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 2024, 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.

51. 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

52. The General Assembly, by its resolution [74/185](#), decided to appoint the following 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

53. The current membership of the Advisory Committee expires on 31 December 2023. At its seventy-eighth session, the General Assembly will appoint 25 Member States, comprising six African States, five Asia-Pacific States, three Eastern European States, five Latin American and Caribbean States and six Western European and other States, to serve as members of the Advisory Committee for a period of four years, from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027.

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

54. The fifty-eighth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 3 October 2023, was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Harold Adlai Agyeman. Markus Pallek, a Principal Legal Officer in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, served as Secretary. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the United Nations Legal Counsel, Miguel de Serpa Soares, participated in the session to deliver remarks and answer questions from members of the Committee.

55. The following members attended the meeting: Canada, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America. The Kingdom of the Netherlands and Thailand attended as observers in their respective capacities as host countries for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific.

56. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, in his statement, updated the Advisory Committee on the information contained in the draft report and drew attention to the continuing efforts to streamline and rationalize the provision of legal training and technical assistance, to better respond to the needs of Member States. He emphasized that the limitations placed by the COVID-19 pandemic were no longer an obstacle to the implementation of the activities of the Programme. In particular, he noted that, for the first time since 2019, all training-programmes conducted under the mandate of the Programme were held in person at their traditional venues, while expressing its appreciation to the host countries for their support. The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the efforts undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to increase the language and regional diversity of lecturers in the Audiovisual Library of International Law, as well as the wide range of legal publications released during the reporting period, in both digital and print formats, in all the official languages of the United Nations. The Under-Secretary-General also reaffirmed his personal commitment to further strengthening the Programme of Assistance by creating

synergies across the Office of Legal Affairs, exploring suggestions aimed at expanding the reach of its activities, yet further increasing diversity in all aspects of the work of the Programme, and increasing cooperation for the benefit of the activities of the Programme.

57. The Advisory Committee expressed its strong support for the Programme of Assistance and commended the efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs for its commitment in the implementation and further enhancement of the activities under the Programme. The Committee also expressed its strong support for the funding of the activities of the Programme from the regular budget of the Organization, while highlighting the importance of voluntary contributions. The Committee welcomed that the four in-person training programmes conducted under the mandate of the Programme of Assistance were held again during the reporting period at their usual venues. While encouraging the Office to explore lessons learned from the pandemic in the use of information and communication technologies, the Committee expressed its unwavering support for in-person training, underscoring the importance of interactions amongst participants. The work of the Office was recognized in ensuring academic and professional expertise, diversity of legal traditions, as well as gender balance among the faculty of the Programme, and proposals were made to further improve in that area. Regarding the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the Committee highlighted the importance of this resource for the dissemination of international law. In that regard, proposals were made to explore alternative means to capture audiovisual content and to expand the offerings of the library, particularly focusing on podcasts. The Committee thanked the Under-Secretary-General for his support and commitment to multilingualism in the work of the Organization but noted the need for greater linguistic diversity of content in the Audiovisual Library. The Committee also reiterated its support for the work conducted so far in revamping the website of the Audiovisual Library, as well as for the dissemination of publications and materials in international law in printed format. Proposals were made for the effective dissemination of these resources, including by cooperating with academic institutions, expanding the use of social media, and implementing new technologies for the delivery of content.

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

*Website**Uniform resource locator*

Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property <https://legal.un.org/committees/immunities>

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
