



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/565
1 October 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 17 (f)

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

Letter dated 29 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States, and at the express request of that Group, I have the honour to draw your attention to the striking under-representation of Africa in the International Law Commission.

As you know, the African States constitute almost one third of the States Members of the United Nations. The criterion generally accepted and applied in the composition of United Nations bodies is that of the equitable geographical distribution of seats. On that basis, it is obvious that the five seats allocated to Africa out of the total of 25 seats comprising the membership of the Commission do not do justice to the African States' legitimate aspiration to make a maximum contribution to the work of that United Nations body.

That is why, with an eye to the elections to be held during the present session, I propose that, in order to redress the current imbalance, action be taken in order to ensure that at least three additional seats are allocated to Africa.

I should like to request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 17 (f).

(Signed) Mohammed BEDJAUI
Chairman of the Group of African States
for the month of September