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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 [74/185](#). 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 2021 and the related administrative and financial implications.



I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 74/185, 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/74/496), submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. In paragraph 29 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2020 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 2021 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 International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, 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 outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) during the reporting period has had a significant impact on the implementation of certain 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 mechanism 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 18 November to 13 December 2019, and was conducted in English. Applications were received from 135 candidates from 36 countries. In total, 25 participants (12 men and 13 women) attended the course, of whom 20 were awarded fellowships and 5 attended on a self-funded basis.

7. The participants were from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.²

8. The seminars delivered at the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (H. Tigroudja, Aix-Marseille University); "Law of treaties" (D. Azaria, University College London); "International environmental law" (D. Bodansky, Arizona State University); "Research in international law" (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "Law of the sea" (A. Miron, University of Angers); "State responsibility" (P. Bodeau-Livinec, Paris Nanterre University); "International peace and security" and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (D. Tladi, University of Pretoria, International Law Commission); "International human rights law" (E. Salmón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Court Martial of New Zealand, Victoria University of Wellington); "International law in Asia-Pacific" (K. Kittichaisaree, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "Law of international organizations" and "Diplomatic and consular relations" (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon, International Law Commission); and "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva).

b. Africa

9. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, from 3 to 28 February 2020, and was conducted in English. Applications were received from 147 candidates from 32 countries. A total of 30 participants (14 men and 16 women) attended the course, of whom 21 were awarded fellowships and 9 attended on a self-funded basis.³

10. The participants were from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.⁴

11. The following sessions were conducted (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (J. Viñuales, University of Cambridge); "Law of treaties" and

² Additional information about the participants is available at https://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/asia/participants_2019.pdf. Two fellows had been selected from Brunei Darussalam and Kiribati but were unable to attend.

³ One fellowship was funded through voluntary contributions.

⁴ Additional information about the participants is available at https://legal.un.org/poa/rcil/africa/participants_2020.pdf. One fellow was unable to complete the entirety of the Regional Course owing to a family emergency.

“State responsibility” (A. Tzanakopoulos, University of Oxford); “Research in international law” (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); “International organizations” and “Diplomatic and consular relations” (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon, International Law Commission); “International humanitarian law” and “International criminal law” (A. Lagerwall, Free University of Brussels); “African Union law and institutions” (T. Maluwa, Pennsylvania State University); “Law of the sea” (S. Trevisanut, Utrecht University); “International human rights law” (H. Tigroudja, Aix-Marseille University); “International peace and security” and “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (D. Tladi, University of Pretoria, International Law Commission); “International environmental law” (P. Okowa, Queen Mary University of London); and “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva). A study visit to the African Union was also arranged for participants and the Legal Counsel of the African Union provided a briefing on the work of her Office.

c. Latin America and the Caribbean

12. The Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean was scheduled to be held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, from 20 April to 15 May 2020, and was to be conducted in English.

13. Applications were received from 80 candidates from 25 countries. A total of 22 participants (8 men and 14 women) were selected for the course, of whom 20 were offered fellowships and 2 were invited to attend on a self-funded basis.

14. The selected participants were from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

15. The following sessions were scheduled: “Introduction to international law” (P. Galvão Teles, Autonomous University of Lisbon, International Law Commission); “International peace and security”, “Law of international organizations” and “Diplomatic and consular relations” (A. Tzanakopoulos, University of Oxford); “Law of treaties” and “State responsibility” (S. Villalpando, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization); “Research in international law” (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (C. Giorgetti, University of Richmond); “Law of the sea” (F. Armas Pfirter, University of Buenos Aires); “International human rights law” (H. Tigroudja, Aix-Marseille University); “International humanitarian law” (E. Salmón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru); “International criminal law” (I. Hrdličková, Special Tribunal for Lebanon); “International environmental law” (A. Costa Vieira, Catholic University of Santos); “The law and institutions of the ECLAC region” (G. Acuña and C. de Miguel, ECLAC); “International trade law” (G. Wang, Tulane University); and “International investment law” (A. Bjorklund, McGill University).

16. Preparations for the Regional Course were in the advanced stages; however, owing to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Regional Course could not be held. Participants who had been selected were informed that they would be afforded priority consideration for the Regional Course when it could next be held. While cognizant that the in-depth exchanges and long-lasting bonds created with in-person training could not be replaced, the Codification Division, in order to address the exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19, designed and provided participants with a remote self-paced learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity-building until the Regional Course could next be held. The curriculum included the core topics of

international law typically covered in the Regional Course and drew on available resources such as the *International Law Handbook: Collection of Instruments* and the Audiovisual Library.

d. Venue for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

17. During the period under review, the Regional Courses for Africa and Asia Pacific were held at the regional commissions.⁵ The regional commissions provided not only classroom and office space free of charge, but also significant administrative and logistical support during the planning and conduct of the courses. Such support results in enhanced financial and administrative efficiency and greater certainty and consistency for the courses, without excluding the possibility of holding the courses at other locations in the future.

2. International Law Fellowship Programme

18. The International Law Fellowship Programme provides comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems for professionals from developing countries and countries with emerging economies.⁶ 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 Summer Course of The Hague Academy of International Law. Study visits are also arranged by the Division for the participants.

19. A total of 433 applications were received from candidates from 62 countries (comprising 347 from Africa, 25 from Asia-Pacific, 7 from Eastern Europe, 52 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Western Europe and other countries).

20. The following curriculum was designed for the Fellowship Programme: “Introduction to international law” (L. Boisson de Chazournes, University of Geneva); “Peaceful settlement of international disputes” (C. Escobar Hernández, National University of Distance Education, International Law Commission); “Law of the sea” (Y. Cissé, Alassane Ouattara University, International Law Commission); “Law of treaties” (to be determined); “The International Court of Justice” (M. Bennouna, International Court of Justice); “State responsibility” (P. Bodeau-Livinec, Paris Nanterre University); “International peace and security” (K. von der Decken, University of Kiel); “International environmental law” (J. Viñuales, University of Cambridge); “Law of international organizations” (E. Lagrange, University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne); “Diplomatic and consular relations” (N. Angelet, Free University of Brussels); “International humanitarian law” and “International criminal law” (A. Lagerwall, Free University of Brussels); “Research in international law” (Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); “International

⁵ The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at ECA in Ethiopia. The Regional Course for Asia-Pacific was held at ESCAP in Thailand. The Regional Course for Latin America and the Caribbean was scheduled to be held at ECLAC in Chile.

⁶ 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).

human rights law” (H. Tigroudja, Aix-Marseille University); “International trade law” and “International investment law” (M. M. Mbengue, University of Geneva).⁷

21. The Fellowship Programme was scheduled to be held in The Hague from 29 June to 10 August 2020 and was to be conducted in French. Unfortunately, owing to the outbreak of COVID-19, it could not be held.⁸ Even though the in-depth exchanges and long-lasting bonds created with in-person training could not be replaced, in order to address the exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19, applicants were provided with a remote self-paced learning curriculum designed by the Division as an interim means of capacity-building. The curriculum included the core topics of international law typically covered in the Fellowship Programme and drew on available resources such as the *International Law Handbook* and the Audiovisual Library.

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

22. 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 Codification Division compiled the information of interested alumni and, in accordance with lessons learned from existing networks, launched a platform for those alumni to exchange information and disseminate training materials.

B. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

23. 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.

24. 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 the three pillars of the Library: the Lecture Series, which includes the newly launched Mini-Series; the Historic Archives; and the Research Library.

⁷ The programme of the 2020 summer course of The Hague Academy of International Law included the following lectures: “The growth, challenges and future prospects for investment dispute settlement” (inaugural lecture) (M. Kinnear, Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes); “International law as a body of private law and public law” (general course) (R. Kolb, University of Geneva); “The international law of cybersecurity” (T. Christakis, Grenoble Alpes University); “The evolution of the law of international watercourses” (S. C. McCaffrey, University of the Pacific); “The principle *iura novit curia* in international judicial and arbitral proceedings” (A. Tanzi, University of Bologna); “The extraterritorial use of force against non-State actors” (D. Tladi, University of Pretoria, International Law Commission); “Aggravated responsibility in contemporary international law” (J. E. Viñuales, University of Cambridge); and “Safeguarding the defence – proceedings before international criminal justice” (W. Zhu, Renmin University of China).

⁸ The Hague Academy of International Law also announced that, in the light of the spread of COVID-19, its 2020 summer courses on public and private international law would be postponed to 2021.

25. The Lecture Series contains more than 600 lectures, accompanied by lists of related materials linking to reference documents available online,⁹ on a broad range of topics of international law. The lectures and related legal materials are intended to provide a more comprehensive educational resource for academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. During the reporting period, the Division designed, developed and launched the Mini-Series. The Mini-Series consists of a series of lectures delivered by leading international law scholars that is aimed at providing a general overview of the core topics of international law, primarily intended for users with basic or little knowledge of international law. The Mini-Series currently covers the following topics: law of treaties, State responsibility, diplomatic and consular relations, law of the sea, international environmental law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international trade law.

26. During the period under review, 40 lectures were recorded for the Lecture Series, including the Mini-Series. In order to promote a broader geographical and linguistic representation of lectures and to record lecturers who are not regularly in New York, the Division conducted an off-site recording session in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.¹⁰

27. The Historic Archives contain introductory notes drafted by leading authorities, as well as procedural histories, related documents and archival audiovisual materials prepared by the Division on more than 100 legal instruments.¹¹ During the period under review, the Division updated several instruments in the Historic Archives.

28. 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 enhance the section relating to moot court competitions held in academic institutions. In the 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 2020 editions of the Concours Charles-Rousseau, the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the Jean-Pictet Competition, the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition and the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

29. Since its creation in 2008, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by more than 2.1 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*, social media and specialized international law

⁹ From March 2020 to the time of writing, 14 lectures were added to the Audiovisual Library in audio-only format owing to COVID-19 and the working arrangements for Secretariat staff members. Accordingly, at the time of writing, the lectures are available only on the Audiovisual Library podcast, and their accompanying lists of related materials are not yet available online.

¹⁰ Lectures were recorded at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, and the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge. The recording facilities were provided free of charge by the universities, for which the Secretary-General is grateful. An additional off-site recording session was planned to be conducted in Washington, D.C., but could not be completed owing to the outbreak of COVID-19.

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.

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.⁹

30. Furthermore, in the context of the working arrangements for Secretariat staff members in response to COVID-19, the Division continued to publish new audio-only lectures on the Audiovisual Library podcast, contacted international law societies around the world to draw their attention to the Library's virtual training resources and materials and published social media posts to announce new audio-only lectures as well as existing lectures particularly relevant to COVID-19.

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.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.

32. The Division continues to use the *International Law Handbook*, in both its English and French versions, 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.¹⁵

D. Desktop publishing

33. 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. During the reporting period, the Division continued the desktop publishing activities that it had suspended in 2014 and resumed in 2017, and published the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2015) and *Reports of International Arbitral Awards* (vol. XXXII).¹⁶ Work also advanced on the preparation for publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2016 and 2017) and the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards* (vol. XXXIII). The Division will continue to explore ways of sustaining its desktop publishing efforts in 2021 and beyond, subject to the availability of resources.

¹³ Aquiescencia; EJIL: Talk!; 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.

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.

E. Dissemination

34. 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

35. Ms. Linda Bana of Ghana was awarded the 2020 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea. However, owing to COVID-19 and, in particular, the restrictions on international travel and the closure of the United Nations premises in New York, the scheduled March commencement of the fellowship was postponed to a yet-to-be-determined date in 2021. In the interim, Ms. Bana has been provided with an opportunity to access a virtual training series offered by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.¹⁷ 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. 37). 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.¹⁸

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2021

36. In 2021, 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/74/496](#), sect. V) and approved by the General Assembly.

37. 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 \$120,000. The balance includes funds originally obligated for the 2020 Fellowship, which has been postponed to 2021.

¹⁷ See www.un.org/Depts/los/nippon/OnlineAlumniActivities.pdf.

¹⁸ 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".

IV. Administrative and financial implications of the Programme of Assistance

A. During the reporting period

38. In its resolution 74/185, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2020, 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.

39. Regarding the funding provided for the Programme of Assistance, a total of \$1,131,500 was requested for the regular budget for 2020 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.

40. In its resolution 74/185, 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 to otherwise assist in its implementation and possible expansion. Accordingly, a note verbale was sent in February 2020 to Member States to draw their attention to resolution 74/185, and requesting voluntary contributions.

41. Since the previous report, voluntary contributions have been received for the activities under the Programme of Assistance as follows: (a) for the Programme in general: from China (\$27,000), Cyprus (\$2,200), France (\$16,695), Italy (\$12,000), Panama (\$1,500), the Philippines (\$2,500) and Qatar (\$3,000); (b) for the Audiovisual Library: from Austria (\$1,111), Czechia (\$2,162), Finland (\$8,062), Ireland (\$5,000), Poland (\$5,000), Slovakia (\$5,544) and the United Kingdom (\$6,474); (c) for the Regional Courses: from Finland (\$8,062) and Ireland (\$5,000); (d) for the Fellowship Programme: from Ireland (\$5,000); and (e) for the *International Law Handbook*: from the United Kingdom (\$3,237).

42. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, the Government of Thailand provided accommodation and weekday evening meals for fellows and ground transportation in Bangkok for participants and lecturers, hosted a welcome dinner and organized two cultural visits. 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.

43. 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 its Legal Counsel. ECA provided the training venue, office space for staff of the Division,

dining facilities, equipment and significant administrative and operational support.¹⁹ One additional fellowship was awarded through voluntary contributions.

44. Publications were provided in hard copy free of charge for distribution to the participants in one or more of the training programmes by 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

45. Since the previous report, contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea were received from Ireland (\$5,000), Monaco (€35,000) and the United Kingdom (£2,500).

B. During the 2021 budget period

46. Pursuant to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/185, resources totalling \$1,097,400 have been proposed in the regular budget for 2021 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

47. 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 2021 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.

48. 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.

¹⁹ The Government of Chile planned to make contributions to the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean similar to those that it had made in the past: a welcome reception at the premises of ECLAC, a closing ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a cultural visit. In previous years, ECLAC had 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, and it had planned to do so again in 2020. For previous editions of the International Law Fellowship Programme, The Hague Academy of International Law provided the fellows with a reduced tuition rate to its summer programme. The Carnegie Foundation provided the training venue. The Peace Palace Library, managed by the Carnegie Foundation, provided the participants with library access and research support. The Registry of the International Court of Justice provided office space and equipment for staff of the Codification Division and significant administrative and operational support. The same contributions to the Fellowship Programme were expected in 2020.

2. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

49. The resources included in the programme budget will provide for two full-time positions, namely one Legal Officer (P-3) and one 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 2021, 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.

50. 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

51. 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.

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

52. The fifty-fifth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 9 October 2020, was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee. Ms. Jessica M. Elbaz, a Principal Legal Officer in the Codification Division, served as Secretary.

53. The following members attended the meeting: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, United States of America and Uruguay. 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. Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, delivered remarks.

54. The Secretary made a statement in which she updated the information contained in the draft report and drew attention to the continuing efforts of the Codification Division to strengthen the activities under the Programme of Assistance. She regretted that the outbreak of COVID-19 during the reporting period had had an impact on the implementation of certain activities, namely two of the in-person training programmes. She highlighted the Division's efforts in providing online resources to

applicants as an interim means of capacity-building, as well as to support alumni. The Secretary touched upon the new Mini-Series of the Audiovisual Library of International Law, launched earlier in 2020. The need to upgrade the website of the Audiovisual Library of International Law was also raised.

55. The Advisory Committee commended the Codification Division for its efforts in implementing the activities under the Programme of Assistance, and for exploring innovative means to continue pursuing the objectives of the Programme despite the challenges posed under COVID-19. In particular, the Committee highlighted the efforts to provide interim means of capacity-building during the pandemic to applicants and alumni of the training programmes. The Committee regretted that two in-person training programmes planned for the reporting period could not be held, and while encouraging the Codification Division to continue to explore lessons learned from the pandemic insofar as the use of information and communications technologies was concerned, also underscored the importance of in-person exchanges. The Committee welcomed the support of Member States to the Programme, including through financial contributions. The Committee also welcomed the increased number of female participants and lecturers at the training programmes that were held, as well as on the Audiovisual Library of International Law. While noting with appreciation the efforts of the Division in increasing the linguistic and geographical diversity in the Audiovisual Library of International Law, proposals were made to further improve in that area, as well as to leverage the use of information and communications technologies. The Committee also reiterated the importance of continuing to disseminate information and materials in international law in printed format, including the *International Law Handbook*, the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* and the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*.

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

<i>Website</i>	<i>Uniform resource locator</i>
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
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
