

*Check against delivery*

**16 October 2013**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
68<sup>th</sup>**

number of participants due to space constraints in the seminar-size classroom used for this interactive training course.

The Codification Division decided to perform all administrative functions for this training course to save the regular budget funds that were being used to pay UNITAR to perform these functions.

This cost-saving measure, which has imposed a tremendous burden on the Codification Division, has made it possible to use regular budget funds to pay for 20 fellowships in 2013 as compared to only 12 fellowships just a few years ago.

After receiving almost 1,000 applications for this training course in 2013, the Codification Division explored the possibility of obtaining a slightly larger room to increase the number of partic

In just a few years, the AVL has become a major force in promoting a better knowledge of international law and of the work of the United Nations in promoting the codification and progressive development of international law under Article 13 of the Charter.

It is my pleasure to inform you that, as of this morning, the AVL has now been accessed by 1,007,043 different computers and mobile devices in all 193 Member States. This includes over 25,000 new users since the AVL lectures were made available on mobile devices last week.

The legal publications of the Codification Division are another important part of the Programme of Assistance.

In 2003, there were significant delays of up to five years in the issuance of our legal publications which seriously undermined the value of these publications to the international legal community.

The Codification Division decided to begin preparing its legal publications using desktop publishing software to address a significant backlog in its legal publications, which imposed a heavy burden on the Codification Division and simply cannot be sustained.

Hard copy publications are essential for certain types of legal research and are particularly important for lawyers in developing countries who have limited access to computers; reliable and affordable high speed internet and, in some instances, electricity 24/7.

This situation has become even more serious since the United Nations decided to discontinue sending hard copy publications to libraries and academic institutions in developing countries in 2012 due to financial constraints.

The Codification Division decided to create and maintain a series of websites to promote the dissemination of international legal materials while recognizing the unique value of hard copy publications.

This decision has again imposed a heavy burden on the limited resources of the Codification Division.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The results of the efforts of the Codification Division over the past decade are before you this afternoon.

The proposed activities for the next biennium offer the most comprehensive programme for international law training in the history of the Programme of Assistance and indeed in the history of the United Nations.

The activities specified in part three of the report would provide high quality international law training by leading scholars and practitioners from different countries and legal systems on virtually every subject of international law as well as extensive legal publications and training materials for over one million people next year – as compared to -- 20 people per year just a decade ago.

The report also suggests a possible combination of methods for funding these activities:

First, by providing the minimum resources required to ensure the continuation of these activities through the regular budget, taking into account operative paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/91;

Second, by calling upon developing countries to share a greater burden in covering the cost of the traditional training courses that benefit their lawyers, including asking the African Union, Thailand and Uruguay to pay for about 25% of the cost of these courses and asking other developing countries to cover the cost of their self-funded participants; and

Third, by calling upon developed countries to continue to provide significant funding by means of voluntary contributions to ensure the further development of the AVL which is used primarily by lawyers in developed countries.

As I informed the Advisory Committee last week, the three persons who work on the AVL are funded by voluntary contributions. Due to the significant decline in voluntary contributions this year, they will lose their jobs very soon. This would mean the end of the AVL.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.