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STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 77

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE

TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER

APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER 2014

Programme of Assistance

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/69/L. 7

29 October 2014

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Ambassador Kanda, the Coordinator for the draft resolution on the Programme of Assistance, regrets that he is unable to be here today.

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Bureau, draft resolution L. 7 on agenda item 77 on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

This draft resolution closely resembles resolution 68/110 that was adopted by the General Assembly on this agenda item at its previous session.

As indicated in the explanatory note placed on Unite Share last week, most of the changes in the resolution are technical updates.

My remarks this afternoon will focus on the new provisions contained in this draft resolution, namely operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 8.

Operative paragraph 6 reflects the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 8 and 9.

This paragraph recognizes that the programme budget for the current biennium 2014-2015 does not provide sufficient resources for the Programme of Assistance, in particular the Regional Courses and the Audiovisual Library notwithstanding successive resolutions of the General Assembly requesting such resources.

It further provides that the General Assembly will revisit the matter of providing funding for the Programme of Assistance under the programme budget for 2014-2015, in particular the Regional Courses which have been cancelled and the Audiovisual Library which may have to be discontinued due to lack of resources.

The new provision requests the Secretary-General to include additional resources under the proposed programme budget for the next biennium 2016-2017 to ensure that the three Regional Courses will be held each year beginning in 2016 as well as the continuation and further development of the Audiovisual Library during the next biennium.

This matter will require further consideration and action by the Committees that will be providing guidance to the Secretary-General on the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the next biennium.

This is just the beginning rather than the end of this process.

Operative paragraph 8 reflects the recommendation of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 11.

As indicated previously by the Chair of the Advisory Committee during the debate on this agenda item, the legislative mandate provided by the General Assembly when it decided to establish the Hamilton Shirley

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activities in light of the financial situation, in early September before the beginning of the next session of the General Assembly.

We sincerely hope that all Member States will continue to work together in the coming months to guarantee the future of the Programme of Assistance by providing the necessary additional funding through the regular budget for this Programme, in particular the Regional Courses and the Audiovisual Library.

If we can achieve this goal, we will truly have a reason to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance next year.

On behalf of Ambassador Kanda, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the members of the Advisory Committee and to all delegations for their cooperation and support during the consideration of this agenda item which is of great importance to my country and to every country of the world.

We look forward to the adoption of this draft resolution on the teaching and dissemination of international law during International Law Week.