PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by
H.E. Dr. Khiane PHANSOURIVONG, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations on behalf of
the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at
the Sixth Committee of the
70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on "UN Programme

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member
States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations for his comprehensive report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law as contained in Document A/70/423.

2. ASEAN also wishes to commend the Office of the Legal Affairs, in
particular, the Codification Division for their efforts in implementing the activities under the United Nations Programme of Assistance as well as their dedication and professionalism in the discharge of their duty through the provision of the assistance necessary for strengthening the capacity in legal matters despite the budgetary constraints that the Office is currently facing.

Mr. Chairman,

3. ASEAN firmly believes in the conduct of international relations in
accordance with international law. It is widely acknowledged that international law plays a crucial role in preserving global peace and security, and friendly relations among countries. As such, the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance has significantly contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security and development and enhancement of human rights promotion and protection at national, regional and international levels.

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4. The Programme of Assistance has provided invaluable opportunities
to developing countries such as ourselves to increase our understanding of the principles and obligations of international law. ASEAN would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank the member states who have made voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the Programme. Taking into account the importance of this issue as mentioned above, we sincerely hope that Member States will continue to provide voluntary contributions to implement the activities under the UN Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

5. That's why ASEAN appreciates the International Law Fellowship
Programme held in the Hague, the Netherlands, on 22-31 July 2015, which brought together numerous practitioners, scholars and academic experts in the field of international law and we look forward to the International Law Fellowship Programme which will be held in the Hague, the Netherlands, on 27 June to 5 August 2016. In addition, ASEAN also notes with appreciation the UN Secretary-General's unrelenting effort to increase international law training and disseminating activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance.

6. In addition, ASEAN welcomes the application of advanced
technology, in particular, the use of Audiovisual Library as a tool to disseminate information and as a collection of information accessible to the public, especially students, researchers and practitioners from developing and developed countries. We see this tool as the most cost-effective and widely accessible for free via the Internet and hope that it will be expanded in the coming years.

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Mr. Chairman,

7. ASEAN is pleased to see successful convening of Regional Course in International Law in Africa in February 2015. We hope that Regional Courses in International Law can be held in all the three regions next year, including Asia-Pacific region which Thailand, an ASEAN member state, has shown the willingness to host.

8. ASEAN notes with concern the precarious financial situation of the UN Programme of Assistance. Therefore, to ensure adequate funding for the Programme in the future, ASEAN reiterates that the whole budget for the regional courses and the viability of the Audiovisual Library should be made available directly from the regular UN budget as well