MYANMAR

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Statement by

Ms. Yin May Hnynn,

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on Agenda Item 80

"United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law"

at the Sixth Committee of the

72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chairman,

1. Myanmar aligns itself with the Statement made by the distinguished delegate of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report submitted under this agenda item. The report covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. It also includes the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the programme for 2018-2019.

3. I wish to pay tribute to the UN Office of Legal Affairs and its Codification Division for their excellent works for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Since its inception in 1965, the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law has contributed towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. As we all share, an increased knowledge and wider appreciation of international law is important for further strengthening the rule of law at the national and international level.

5. Strengthening knowledge and building capacity are vital for preventing conflicts. It is essential for investing more in preventive measures. As the Secretary-General stated in his statement in the Security Council on 10 January 2017, unfortunately the international community spent far more time and resources responding to crises rather than preventing them.

6. Last year at this Committee, my delegation joined other Member States in calling for the Programme of Assistance to be funded under the UN regular budget. We share the concern that voluntary contribution alone is not a sustainable source for funding the Programme of Assistance. We welcome the allocation of budget for the Programme of Assistance for biennium 2018-2019 mentioned in the report. However, adequate funding is essential for the successful implementation of the

Programme of Assistance as we place preventive measure as a priority for preventing conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We value importance of courses, trainings, activities provided under the Programme of Assistance. We believe that laying foundation of legal knowledge and promoting a wider awareness of international law among young people will contribute to strengthening rule of law in our society. As a country in a democratic transition and a young democracy which pays high emphasis on the rule of law to promote peace, stability, democracy and economic development of its people, Myanmar wishes to be considered as a priority recipient of the Programme of Assistance in coming years.

8. Myanmar welcomes the successful convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme held in The Hague from 26 June to 4 August, 2017. The fellowship programme has brought together numerous practitioners, scholars and academic experts in the field of international law.

9. Regional Courses are also important for strengthening of capacity of legal officials. Myanmar thanks the respective host countries for organizing the courses in their respective regions. We would also like to express our appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions for making the courses possible. As the Regional Courses are conducted in the interactive nature, participants can make good use of them to exchange their ideas and share experiences. Therefore, we believe that the courses contribute to promoting greater understanding and cooperation on the legal matters in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The UN Audio-visual Library of International Law is an essential tool to enable international lawyers all over the world to access low cost and high-quality legal training through the internet. The lecture series and research library provided by the Audio-visual Library is not just a tool for education but also for a useful programme for diplomats, lawyers and legal officials to understand further the international law. In this regard, my delegation would like to commend the efforts of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in the preparation of the

International Law Handbook on the collection of legal materials for the Programme's training courses and for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in the developing countries. We welcome the fact that the Handbook is available on the website free of charge.

Mr. Chairman,

11. With the support of the UN and in cooperation with some countries, Myanmar organized seminars and workshops for legal officials at national level. In April this year, the Union Attorney General Office, in collaboration with the Attorney General Office of Singapore, conducted a workshop on the negotiation of international treaties. Similarly workshops related to international laws were held with the support of JICA, ADB and UNICEF during this year.

12. In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to reiterate the importance of the Programme of Assistance and our support for the continuation and expansion of the Programme. The activities under the Programme of Assistance have benefitted many developing countries for their efforts in further enhancing knowledge of International Law.

I thank you.