... ~~~ United Nations Member States _,, ...iiilli.))-, ~- """~'"" ,'/

Mr. Chairman,

The PSIDS would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of this work. When discussing the issue of the rule of law at the international level, States have continuously affirmed the importance of developing and maintaining cooperation within the international community through international law and the three pillars of the UN: international peace, socioeconomic development, and human rights. These issues are directly linked with the 2030 Agenda that our Leaders endorsed only a matter of weeks ago, the sustainable development goals contained therein, and the search for multi-stakeholder and partnership approaches, all of which are of great importance to PSIDS.

The PSIDS receive great benefits in working in international law, especially from the regional courses in international law, the international fellowships, and the audiovisual library and publications. The Programme of Assistance is a core tool for training of government officials in particular, in international law.

Mr. Chairman,

In light of this, the PSIDS consider that the General Assembly's decision in resolution 69/117 to request additional funds for this area, as essential. The current demands on the Programme of Assistance cannot be met under the existing budget. The system of voluntary Member State contributions has not been successful at meeting the additional financial demands of this Programme either. Last year, I expressed here in this Committee our concern on the continued insufficient finances and lack of regular budgetary funding for the Programme of Assistance, which led to the cancellation of the Regional Courses in International Law for the Asia-Pacific. In fact, the last one was held in 2012.

We therefore welcome the fact that pursuant to resolution 69/117, additional resources have been proposed in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the Regional courses in International Law and the Audiovisual Library oflnternational Law. If this new funding is confirmed, it is anticipated that a Regional Course in International Law for the Asia-Pacific will take place in Thailand, both

antici2a, 0 1nal 880 15 0 03016-2017

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, PSIDS has already stated the importance of international law's progressive development and its core role in the appropriate conduct of relations among States. Thus, the dissemination of the knowledge, study and teaching of international law is of central importance for our members, and for the international community in its quest to achieve a world based on the rule of law.

We accordingly look forward to the confirmation of additional budget being allocated to the work of the Programme of Assistance, and of thus ensuring