



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Capacity-Building Program on International Law and Cyberspace

jointly organized by

the African Union Commission,

Global Affairs Canada, the AU Legal Counsel, and the AU Commission on
International Law

Opening remarks

by

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs and
United Nations Legal Counsel,

9.00 a.m., Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation to address the participants in this new workshop of the Capacity-Building Program on International Law and Cyberspace which constitutes a further step in the ongoing efforts of the African Union to develop a common African position on the application of international law in cyberspace.



role should be given to clarifying the applicability of existing international law in this context as there is no longer any doubt that international law, and in particular the UN Charter, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and for the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.

For these reasons, it is critical for Member States to arrive at a common understanding of not only the issues and challenges currently present in the field of cyber technologies, but also of any desirable legal frameworks that would allow for the development of ICT-related activities for the common good.

I therefore salute the efforts deployed by the African Union Commission, Global Affairs Canada, the AU Legal Counsel, and the AU Commission on International Law towards the development and organization of this capacity building program on the application of international law in cyberspace for African delegates serving here at the United Nations. Looking at the program of these intense and half days ahead of you, I have the feeling that the upcoming presentations and

