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**MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE
AFRICAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
20 July, 1994**

It is a great pleasure for me to send my greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the launching of the first volume of the African Yearbook of International Law. The advancement and promotion of international law in Africa has long been a special cause for me -- as for many of you. I share your pride and satisfaction in this notable achievement.

The teaching, dissemination, and development of international law are integral to Africa's own development, and essential components of progress for the international community as a whole. Through international law, humanity acts upon the principle that human dignity is a concern that transcends national boundaries and national distinctions. Historically, and at the present time, international law has played a vital role in ensuring the spread of human freedom, the greater protection of human rights, and an appropriate respect for national sovereignty.

International law is, I am proud to say, humanity's common language of communication. By means of this common language of communication, we are able, in a practical way, to address the challenges that constitute our most fundamental human concerns. As Africa and the international community face the many challenges that lie ahead, our goal must be to transform human relations so that, in addition to serving as a means of communication, international law becomes a true code of human conduct. In international law itself, we have both a strategy and a mechanism for pursuing this objective.

Through the publication of these volumes, the African Association of International Law is making an important contribution to African international law. I welcome the appearance of this first volume, and I extend my warmest congratulations to all who helped to make this achievement possible.