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**COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
(CAHDI)**

**33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 22-23 March 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.- ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF
THE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Paper submitted by the observer of Mexico

1. During the 32nd meeting of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), the observer of Mexico suggested that in the future the CAHDI concentrate on subagenda items to see how different offices have addressed certain issues.
2. In response to the suggestion made by the Chair, the observer of Mexico presents this paper in order to identify certain aspects that may be taken up by the CAHDI to further develop this agenda item.
3. The observer delegation of Mexico considers that the members of this Committee could enormously benefit from the experience gained by legal advisers of ministries of foreign affairs by means of an exchange of views on how certain issues have been addressed by their offices.
4. Although functions may vary from country to country as documented in the national contributions submitted by Member States, it is also true that most legal advisers deal with similar challenges on matters relating to treaties, drafting of implementing legislation, foreign litigation, application of UN sanctions, participation of the ministry of foreign affairs in extradition procedures, etc. The CAHDI could serve as a forum where legal advisers share with others their experiences on how certain issues were addressed so that colleagues can have a source of inspiration to deal with similar problems.
5. The following methodology is proposed to achieve this end:
 - The CAHDI would identify specific aspects of the work of the Office of the Legal Adviser which are worth examining by the Committee due to its particular difficulty or relevance. Some topics are already suggested in paragraph 4 *supra* and others could be added. In any event, the suggestion is to identify aspects of the work of the Office of the Legal Adviser which are of a practical nature.
 - Under each subagenda item, the CAHDI would invite interested delegations to make a short presentation on how her/his office addressed such an issue.
 - An interactive debate would follow in which participants could ask questions or add their own experience.