

Statement by Finland  
on behalf of the Nordic countries

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Agenda item 81:  
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and  
Wider Appreciation of International Law

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(check against delivery)

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

The Nordic Countries would like to thank the Secretary General for his newest report (A/76/404), which covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme in 2021, as well as the activities planned for 2022 and the related administrative and financial implications.

The Nordic Countries are strong supporters of an international order based on the rule of law. Rules-based multilateral co-operation is indispensable for tackling global problems such as global warming, biodiversity loss, conflicts and poverty. The Covid-19 pandemic has underlined this point.

We believe that the rules-based international order depends largely on the professionalism and commitment of people acting on behalf of the States. Through the Programme of Assistance generations of government lawyers, judges and diplomats from all around the globe have been able to gain a deeper understanding of the body of law that governs our interconnected world. This has been to the benefit of the international community as a whole.

Madam Chair,

Since its founding in 1965, the Programme of Assistance has made a significant contribution to the goals of the United Nations by providing scholars and practitioners access to high quality international law training and other resources on international law. We commend the active and continued engagement of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in pursuing its mandate regarding the Programme of Assistance. We commend Ghana for its dedicated leadership of the Programme and the whole Advisory Committee for its work.

The International Law Fellowship Programme as well as the Regional Courses have been instrumental in providing international law training for young lawyers. The outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic has hindered the organization of the Programme's courses to their full extent.

We commend the Codification Division for exploring innovative means to continue pursuing the objectives of the Programme of Assistance despite the challenges posed by Covid-19. We hope that the normal activities can be resumed as soon as possible.

The Nordic countries commend the continuous development of the Audiovisual Library of International Law since 2008. This invaluable resource continues to bring high quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the globe, free of charge. The Nordic Countries welcome the efforts of the Codification Division to continue the development

of material produced and provided by the Audiovisual Library in order to better service persons and organisations in areas with limited internet connection.

We note with appreciation the additional measures undertaken by the Audiovisual Library in response to Covid-19. The Library's resources have been of particular relevance during the covid-19 pandemic, which necessitated a quick transformation of the traditional methods of learning into online education.

The Nordic countries salute the Member States that have made voluntary contributions to the Programme and encourage all States to consider making such contributions in the future, to sustain continued operations of the Programme.

We would like express our continued support to the Programme of Assistance.

Thank you, Madam Chair