

Statement by Finland on behalf of the Nordic Countries  
(Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)

UNGA 73, Sixth Committee  
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and  
Wider Appreciation of International Law  
Item 81

Statement by

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(check against delivery)



Mr. Chairman,

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 that covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme in 2018 as well as the activities planned for 2019 and the related administrative and financial implications.

The Nordic countries are strong supporters of an international order based on the rule of law. We believe that an effective rules-based international order depends largely on the professionalism and commitment of people acting on behalf of 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.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1965, the Programme of Assistance has made a remarkable contribution to achieving 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 of the Secretariat in pursuing its mandate regarding the Programme of Assistance. It has been a vital tool for the dissemination of international law globally. We would like to thank Ghana for its longstanding and steadfast leadership on this initiative. We would also like to thank the 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. We thank the organizers, lecturers and facilitators for their efforts.

The Nordic countries commend the establishment in 2008 and the continuous development of the Audiovisual Library of International Law. This invaluable resource continues to bring high quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the globe, free of charge.

We welcome the efforts of the Codification Division to expedite the issuance of some of its legal publications. We appreciate the availability of these useful materials.

The Nordic countries are pleased to learn about the provision of resources for the Programme from the regular budget. We note the invitation to Member States to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme. The Nordic countries will continue to examine these requests in a positive light. We 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 the continued operations of the Programme.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.