

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

UNGA 74, Sixth Committee  
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider  
Appreciation of International Law  
Item 78

Statement by

Ms. Niina Nyrhinen  
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

New York, 25 October 2019

(check against delivery)



Permanent Mission of Finland  
to the United Nations

M(r/s) 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/74/496) which covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme in 2019 as well as the activities planned for 2020 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 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.

M(r/s) Chair-

Since its founding in 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 global dissemination of international law. We would like to thank Ghana for its longstanding and steadfast leadership on this initiative. We would also like to extend our warmest thanks to the Advisory Committee, whose mandate will be completed on 31 December 2019.

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 organisers, lecturers and facilitators for their efforts.

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 podcast project and that all new lectures are launched in both video and audio formats. These measures further facilitate access to these materials.

The Nordic Countries are pleased to learn about resources for the Programme of Assistance proposed in the regular budget for 2020. This will enable the continued work of the Programme of Assistance and the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United National Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and the further development and dissemination of education and training in international law.

We note the invitation to the Member States to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme. The Nordic countries will continue to examine these requests in 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 continued operations of the Programme. We would like to thank the incoming Advisory Committee for their commitment and express our continued support for the Programme.

Thank you, M(r/s). Chair-