

Statement by Finland
on behalf of the Nordic countries

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

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(check against delivery)

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/75/389), which covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme in 2020, as well as the activities planned for 2021 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 co-operation is indispensable for tackling global problems such as global warming, 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.

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 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 commend 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. The regional Course for Asia-Pacific was held in November and December 2019, and the Regional Course for Africa in February 2020. Unfortunately, the Regional Course for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Law Fellowship Programme could not be held, due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The participants selected for the Regional Course and applicants for the International Law Fellowship Programme were nonetheless provided a remote self-paced learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity-building. 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.

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 to disseminate information relating to the Library's virtual training materials. These measures further facilitate access to these materials.

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 express our continued support for the Programme of Assistance.

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