



Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York



Permanent Mission of Iceland
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PERMANENT MISSION
OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
OF DENMARK TO THE UN

Statement by Finland on behalf of the Nordic Countries

United Nations General Assembly 77th Session

Sixth Committee

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Agenda item 76:

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

Ms. Virpi Laukkanen

First Secretary, Legal Adviser

Permanent Mission of Finland

to the United Nations

New York, 19 October 2022

(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/77/515), which covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme in 2022, as well as the activities planned for 2023 and the related administrative and financial implications.

The Nordic Countries continue to be 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, poverty and conflicts.

Russia's lawless war of aggression in Ukraine and the brutality and the recklessness with which it is conducted, has made some question the relevance of international law. Many might feel frustrated about the seeming powerlessness of international law even when its most fundamental norms are being violated in most blatant manner. We hear this lament, but we must not forget that international law, like any law, cannot prevent bad things from happening. However, international law does provide the standard against which the conduct of states is measured. Moreover, the strong response of the world to Russia's war of aggression and, most recently, the illegal annexations, has shown the importance and strength of international law and a rules-based international order. International law also provides for consequences for violations. What matters is a good faith interpretation and application of international law.

We feel that this is the time to redouble our efforts for the respect of international law. International law not only provides the framework for states' cooperation, but it also gives expression to the legitimate expectations of the international community. We believe that the rules-based international order depends largely on the professionalism and commitment of people acting on behalf of the States. This highlights the importance and continued relevance of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

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. Additionally, the International Law Fellowship Programme as well as the Regional Courses have been instrumental in providing international law training for young lawyers. All of 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 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 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 the Covid-19 pandemic. 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 and development of the Programme.

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

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