

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

United Nations General Assembly 79<sup>th</sup> Session, Sixth Committee  
New York, 1 November 2024

Agenda item 78:  
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider  
Appreciation of International Law

Statement by Ms. Verna Adkins  
First Secretary, Legal Adviser  
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

New York, 1 November 2024  
(check against delivery)

Madam/Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Finland. The Nordic Countries would like to thank the Secretary General for his latest report (A/79/496), which covers the activities in the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in 2024. The report also covers the activities planned for 2025 and the related administrative and financial implications. We have taken note with concern of the reported liquidity situation of the Programme and the effect on its activities.

The Nordic countries continue to be strong supporters of an international order based on the rule of law. Rules-based multilateral cooperation is indispensable for tackling global problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and conflicts and it can yield positive results in addressing pressing global issues. However, we have also seen worrying signs of neglect for international law, especially in the context of armed conflict.

Therefore, 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 Programme.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

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. The Nordic countries compliment the gender balance among the participants to the Programme. 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.

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.

The Nordic countries applaud the continuous development, dissemination and maintenance of the Audio-visual Library of International Law since 2008. This invaluable resource continues to bring accessible and 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 continue the development of material produced and provided by the Audio-visual Library in order to better service persons and organizations in areas with limited internet connection.

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. In closing, we would like to express our continued support to the Programme of Assistance.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.