

General Assembly  
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Finally, let me emphasise that the Nordic countries condemn all acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea and support the Commission and the Special Rapporteur in their work.

The Nordic countries attach great importance to secure and open maritime routes. Without secure oceans, the global trade which relies heavily on sea transport will be significantly obstructed to the damage for all.

On behalf of the Nordic Countries, I look forward to continue the cooperation with both the Commission and the Special Rapporteur.

Mme./Mr. Chair,

Regarding the topic of Non-legally binding international agreements, the Nordic countries would like to thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Mathias Forteau, for his excellent first report on this topic, which is of great practical significance. The timeliness and practical relevance of the topic is highlighted by the increasing use of non-legally binding instruments in international cooperation, and by the fact that other international expert bodies – such as the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law of the Council of Europe – have examined or are currently looking into this topic.

Since the work on the topic has only just begun, the Nordic countries would like to present some preliminary observations.

*First*, as regards \_\_\_\_\_, the Nordic countries would like to express our understanding for the Special Rapporteur's reasoning behind the choice of the term. The Nordic countries consider it important that the final output of the Commission on the topic will clarify that the use of the term "agreement" is without prejudice to the legal nature of the agreements examined, and the terminological choices that States may make in their national practice.

*Second*, regarding \_\_\_\_\_

The Nordic countries would like to express our support for further considering whether some categories of non-legally binding inter-institutional agreements, concluded for example between ministries and subnational territorial units, should fall under the scope of the topic. The main objective should be to capture and engage with the relevant practice of States. In this regard, the Nordic countries note that a significant number of non-legally binding agreements are made at a sub-State level, as between ministries of different states responsible for particular sectors. Such agreements make up a considerable part of current practice and should not be excluded from the Commission's work. Salient questions arise, for example, as to the possible consequences of such agreements concluded as between ministries, as compared to agreements concluded between states and signed by a head of state or minister of foreign affairs. The Commission's guidance on this and other questions relating to such agreements would, in the opinion of the Nordic countries, be of considerable practical value to States.

*Third*, the Nordic countries express our support for

On behalf of The Nordic countries, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the work already done by Mr. Forteau and the ILC on this topic. The Nordic countries are looking forward to contributing to the discussions on this topic and are ready to share information to the Commission on our national practices.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Finally, I will turn to the topic of

The Nordic countries have taken note of the decision of the Commission to establish a working group at its seventy-sixth session for the purpose of drafting a summary report that will bring to an end the work of the Commission on the topic. Although this outcome is of course not what was originally envisaged, the efforts of the Commission and especially those of the Special Rapporteur Pavel Šturma will nevertheless count as important contributions to this complicated area of law.

Thank you.