

**Statement on behalf of
Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark**

**74th Session
of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

6th Committee

**Agenda item 83:
The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**

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M(r/s) Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Finland, Norway, Iceland, Sweden - and my own country - Denmark.

At the outset, the Nordic countries would like to thank the Secretary-General for his recent report to the General Assembly on the “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities”. The focus on troubling negative trends that create challenges for national and international rule of law in all parts of the world is highly relevant.

The continued focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the rule of law elements is highly welcome. We also thank the Secretary-General for raising challenges in the contexts of climate change, proliferation of hate speech and the impact of new technologies, including cybercrime on modern societies.

Today, there is a continuing negative slide towards weaker rule of law in many parts of the world and as a result, the protection of human rights is weakened. There is much opposition to multilateralism; there is much promotion of “the rule of *my* law” rather than the rule of law.

In this light, the agreed sub-topic for this year’s debate in the Sixth Committee on ‘Sharing best practices and ideas to promote respect for international law among States’ is appropriate.

M(r/s) Chair,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and the Nordic countries anticipate with high expectations the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December this year. This is an opportunity for States to promote the respect for international humanitarian law and cross-regional universal cooperation on a large scale of IHL- and other humanitarian topics. The Conference is an excellent opportunity for sharing good practices, ideas and experiences.

M(r/s) Chair,

The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), is also an example of good interaction between HRC and UNGA as well as of cross-regional cooperation between the EU and the OIC. Allow us to reiterate that it was a joint EU/OIC resolution in HRC in September 2018 that led to the establishment of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM).

Decades of denial of justice for victims in Myanmar and impunity for the perpetrators have severely eroded the rule of law. The Nordic countries firmly support the efforts by the international community to ensure that anyone responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing or war crimes – in Myanmar and anywhere else – must be brought to justice.

M(r/s) Chair,

Finally, the Nordic countries reiterate their unwavering support to the International Criminal Court (ICC), as well as to other international criminal tribunals. We want to end impunity and ensure accountability for serious international crimes. The ICC must continue its work independently and undeterred, firmly based on the jurisdiction conferred upon it in the Rome Statute.

Thank you.