

6 October 2022



Check against delivery

E-mail: unmission@mfa.is

M(r/s) Chair,

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

It should come as a no surprise that Nordic countries are strong supporters of the rule of law, both at national and international levels. Democracy and human rights are central elements of the Rule of law, which is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, including the State itself, are accountable to the same laws that are equally enforced and independently adjudicated. Rule of law constitutes the ground upon which peace and prosperity can be built and maintained, both within and between States. Importantly, the rule of law involves respect for international law.

M(r/s) Chair,

The Report “Our Common Agenda” of the Secretary-General has much to offer to our work for the rule of law. We agree that the purposes and principles of the Charter of

6 October 2022

the United Nations and international law remain timeless, universal and an

independent judiciary to apply them impartially and in accordance with principles of justice without the risk of being subject to undue pressure due to unpopular verdicts.

Rule of law is also the foundation for peace and orderly processes for solving disputes at the international stage. For instance, the prohibition in the UN Charter on the use of force is a fundamental norm of international law that must be observed consistently by all members of the UN, including members of the UN Security Council. Action in violation of the UN Charter, such as Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, cannot be accepted and must have consequences.

M(r/s) Chair,

The Nordic countries are staunch supporters of the rule of law. In spite of the burden of the pandemic felt by the entire globe, we must stand firm on the core principles of modern democracies. In times of emergency, the rule of law must not be weighed against other societal interests.