



M(r/s) Chair,

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

The Nordic countries would like to thank the Secretary-General for his recent report on the Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. The report draws an alarming conclusion about a continuing global decline in the rule of law and a backsliding democracy and women's rights. We call on the international community to do its utmost to help reverse this negative trend.

However, there are some recent multilateral achievements to celebrate. In 2023, the number of parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has increased. This important treaty sets out the legal framework within which all activities in oceans and seas must be carried out. It is therefore also very promising that in June 2023, after many years of negotiations, Intergovernmental Conference convened by the General Assembly adopted by consensus the Agreement under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The instrument, also known as the BBNJ Agreement, was opened for signature in September and currently has 113 parties.



be held accountable. Fortunately, digital technologies are instrumental in gathering and preserving evidence of such crimes to be used in future trials.

M(r/s) Chair

Finally, a brief note on behalf of my own country Denmark. We continue to present ourselves as a Nordic candidate for a seat at United Nations Security Council 2026-2025. An important topic for us will of course be to promote universal respect for the rule of law, a pivotal principle in any attempt to pursue peace and stability in international relations.

Thank you.