

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

**75th Session  
of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**6th Committee**

**Agenda item 86:  
The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**

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M(r/s) Chair,

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

Strengthening the rule of law forms an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Promoting the Sustainable Development Goal regarding peace, justice and strong institutions is a priority for the Nordic countries and more pertinent than ever now, during the global pandemic. Ensuring transparent procedures, efficient decision-making and judicious institutions and officials are key factors when promoting the rule of law.

Today, there is a continuing negative slide towards weaker rule of law in many parts of the world – a situation the pandemic has done nothing to improve. Corruption and lack of transparency may thrive in such an environment. Promotion of rule of law ensures we avoid the unjust rule of the powerful.

In this light, the agreed sub-topic for this year's debate in the Sixth Committee on '*Measures to prevent and combat corruption*' is appropriate.

M(r/s) Chair,

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his yearly report on the Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, as well as the overall efforts of the Secretary-General in addressing the issue of corruption, including during the pandemic.

Corruption may exist at all levels, in different scales and may take many forms. Importantly, corruption exacerbates poverty and inequality and has a disproportionate effect on those in the most vulnerable situations. Corruption obstructs technological breakthroughs, and affects economic growth and development nationally as well as globally. These are all important elements in the “global village”, not least when combatting the current pandemic.

In short, corruption promotes uncertainty, which is the exact opposite of the rule of law.

M(r/s) Chair,

We see corruption as a threat to the norms and principles embedded in the rule of law – namely, democracy, human rights and sustainable development. The Nordic countries are committed to the UN Convention against Corruption, to promoting the rule of law and to fighting corruption. In this regard, we also want to highlight the work done by civil society in the fight against corruption.

Thank you.