

Statement by Finland
on behalf of the Nordic countries

United Nations General Assembly 76th Session
Sixth Committee
New York, 15 October 2021

Agenda item 88:
Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework

Ms. Virpi Laukkanen
Legal Adviser
Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations

(check against delivery)

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Finland.

The Nordic countries consider that well-functioning and easily accessible registration and publication of treaties are important elements of the international treaty framework and help to promote transparency in international law. We therefore welcome the Committee's further elaboration on this matter under the 76th General Assembly.

The Nordic countries welcome the amendments already made in 2018 to the Regulations to give effect to Article 102, which have helped to simplify the treaty registration and publication process and have adapted the Regulations to developments in registration practice. Furthermore, we once again welcome the Secretary General's report A/75/136 submitted under the present agenda item, and remain open to consider the possible options to review the regulations as identified in the report.

The Nordic countries believe that further use of modern electronic methods in the registration and publication process remains an important aspect to consider. The Nordic countries welcome further discussions on an online treaty registration system referred to in the Secretary-General's report and resolution A/75/144.

Madam Chair,

The Nordic countries wish to emphasize that multilingualism is a core value of the Organization that contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations. Although the Nordic Countries understand that the requirement that the full texts of all published treaties are to be translated into English and French imposes a burden for the Secretariat, it is our view that any suggestion to remove this requirement should be avoided in order to secure the transparency of international law and accessibility of treaties. Shifting the requirement entirely to States should also be avoided since this could discourage States from registering treaties. The Nordic countries remain open to consider other proposals for streamlining the processes for the translation and publication of treaties.

Madam Chair,

The Nordic countries continue to support the efforts of the Sixth Committee on this subject.

Thank you.