

Mr Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Mr Chairman,

The Secretary-General is the Chief Administrative Officer of this Organization. This important role has been invested in him in the Charter of the UN. The Nordic countries strongly believe that as the Chief Administrative officer of the UN, the Secretary-General has a clear authority to issue administrative instructions on the implementation of staff rules and regulations.

The draft decision in front of us, (even as orally amended), gives no details or explanation as to why the staff bulletin should be withdrawn. The Secretary-General's bulletin this draft decision seeks to withdraw contains nothing that would contradict the Staff rules and regulations or the General Assembly resolutions on human resources management.

Mr. Chairman,

Staff bulletins are purely instruments for internal administration at the United Nations. They have no implications on the domestic legislation or national policies of the Member States. Therefore, our countries see no reason for this proposal and no reasonable arguments to support it.

Furthermore, Mr. Chair, the Nordic countries believe that the Secretary-General has the duty to ensure equal treatment of all staff members of this Organization.

We also believe that the bulletin is essential to ensure the equal treatment of all staff members of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

The work of this Committee is based on the principle of consensus decision making. We deeply regret that this draft decision has been put forward despite the fact that the negotiations on other issues under this agenda item are still ongoing.

Mr. Chairman,

(The oral amendments made by the proponent do not change our assessment of the draft decision.) For the reasons mentioned before, namely the authority of the SG and the non-discrimination amongst staff members, our delegations will vote against this draft decision and we strongly encourage other delegations to do the same.

I thank you Mr. Chairman