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Diplomatic Protection

Ms. Maria Bergram Aas
Counsellor

On behalf of the Nordic Countries

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

The Nordic countries once again commend the International Law Commission and the Special Rapporteur Mr John Dugard for the work that led to the adoption in 2006 of the draft articles on diplomatic protection.

We, the Nordic countries have on various earlier occasions expressed our view on the substance of the Articles elaborated by the Commission and I would like to reiterate that they meet the general satisfaction of the Nordic countries. In our view, the articles make an important contribution to general international law in the field of diplomatic protection.

We note that the Secretary General in his report 26 June this year confirms diverging views between Member States on the draft articles, including the question of their final form. The Nordic countries stand ready to consider all options that will safeguard the core elements of the articles and ensure their position as a source of inspiration and guidance for States in exercising the right to diplomatic protection.

Bearing in mind the current situation, we are concerned that attempts to negotiate a convention at this point might risk opening up a debate that may undermine the already substantial contributions of the draft articles.

We therefore, at this juncture, recommend that the draft articles be taken note of and be fully taken into consideration as guidance and inspiration for State practice.

(Check against delivery)