

Joint statement 6th Committee on the report of the committee on relations with the host country

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

At the outset, let me voice our support for the committee on relations with the host country as an open and inclusive forum to discuss matters related to the implementation of the UN Headquarters Agreement between the United Nations and the United States. We would also like to state our appreciation for the report from the committee issued last week.

First, we noted with regret the decision of the United States to deny and revoke visas from members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) ahead of this year's United Nations General Assembly.

We recall that the primary purpose of the Headquarters Agreement is to enable the United Nations at its headquarters in the United States, fully and efficiently, to discharge its responsibilities and fulfill its purposes. The full and effective participation by the representatives of all accredited delegations in the work of the United Nations is crucial to facilitating our common work in this multilateral forum.

Second, we wish to underscore the critical importance of ensuring that the necessary visas are granted in a timely fashion to ensure participation in meetings at the United Nations, including the briefings by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Libya and Darfur, Sudan as mandated in resolution 1970 (2011) and resolution 1593 (2005). Such briefings not only support the effective implementation of the Council's decisions but are also critical to advancing accountability for crimes under international law.

We would like to recall the commitment and dedication of the United States to engage constructively on matters related to its Host Country status and to uphold its obligations under the UN Headquarters Agreement, voiced by the United States on numerous previous occasions, and urge such engagement to continue.

Thank you, Chair.