

Statement by Sweden on behalf of the Nordic countries  
(Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden)

at the

General Assembly,  
Seventy-eight Session

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 87:  
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

United Nations, New York

12 October 2023

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

The Nordic countries welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction. We thank Member States and other stakeholders for

The Nordic countries have incorporated the principle of universal jurisdiction into their respective domestic legislation, allowing domestic prosecution of the most serious crimes of international concern, regardless of where the conduct occurred and the nationality of the perpetrator.

We encourage states that have not yet done so to incorporate universal jurisdiction over serious international crimes into their domestic legislation, to ensure that perpetrators do not receive safe haven anywhere in the world.

Prosecutors in several countries have opened investigations into numerous cases against suspected offenders and there is a steady increase in prosecutions of international crimes in domestic courts, many of them based on universal jurisdiction.

The message is clear: those who commit atrocities cannot escape justice. They will eventually be held accountable.

I thank you.