Mr President,

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

This year, the world commemorated the fact that 20 years have passed since the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda should be commended for its role in ensuring criminal justice for the horrendous crimes that were committed and in developing international criminal law.

Following the three Appeals Judgments that were delivered on 29 September this year, the remaining caseload of the ICTR Appeals Chamber consists of just one case, which is expected to be heard in 2015.
Next year, 20 years will have passed since the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. As the first ad hoc tribunal to be established, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has consistently served as a catalyst for important developments in international criminal law. Less than ten cases remain to be heard at the ICTY at this point – four trials and five appeals. All 161 indicted individuals are accounted for. The ICTY has worked actively to prevent potential delays caused by the heavy workload of the Appeals Chamber, and its efforts have, in our view, been successful.

The Nordic countries would like to applaud the significant achievements of the ICTR and ICTY over the past 20 years. In particular, both tribunals deserve praise for their work in the area of sexual and gender based violence. The Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTR released a best practices manual on the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence in January this year. We hope that the ICTY’s vast experience in handling such cases will also be passed on to relevant stakeholders and practitioners in a document of this kind. Both tribunals are, however, still functioning, and in need of continued support from the international community. It is crucial that the tribunals are allocated sufficient resources to complete their tasks in the expected time frame.

Another issue of importance to the successful completion of the mandate of the ICTR is the need to relocate acquitted persons and convicted individuals who have completed their sentences and been released, and who are currently residing in Arusha. This is an issue the international community should address collectively.

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals was established in 2010 as a key component of the Completion Strategies of the two tribunals. The Mechanism is a temporary body, tasked with continuing the ‘jurisdiction, rights and obligations, and essential functions’ of the ICTR and the ICTY and maintaining the legacy of both institutions after the completion
of their mandates. It will perform a number of critical functions such as tracking and
prosecuting remaining fugitives and conducting appeals proceedings and retrials and trials
for contempt of court. The Mechanism is also tasked with other important responsibilities,
including protecting victims and witnesses, supervising the enforcement of sentences and
supporting national jurisdictions. It is essential to ensure sufficient support for the
Mechanism, including satisfactory funding, so that it can perform its tasks and maintain the
legacy of the *ad hoc* tribunals.

Finally, like the tribunals, the Mechanism depends on the cooperation of national
governments to arrest fugitives. The fact that nine Rwandan fugitives still remain at large 20
years after the genocide must be addressed. Three of these are earmarked for trial by the
Mechanism: Félicien Kabuga, the alleged chief financier of the genocide; Protais Mpiranya,
the former commander of the Presidential Guards; and Augustin Bizimana, the former
defence minister. As UN Member States, we are all obliged to cooperate unconditionally and
to comply with requests for assistance or orders from the Mechanism. We strongly
encourage all States to intensify their efforts to ensure the arrest of the remaining fugitives.

Thank you, Mr President.