

**Name:**

**Country:** Finland

**Committee:** General Assembly Plenary Committee - Concurrent

Instructions: Lay out your country's positions on the following two topics. This should focus on what a specific delegation would like to address or accomplish at the UN. Research these topics and describe how your country has addressed this issue and how you think they would go about solving the problem.

300 words per topic.

### **Topic 1: Education for democracy**

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The backsliding of democracies around the world, combined with increasing rule of law and human rights violations, are issues accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic that require international cooperation. This cooperation should aim to promote education about democratic principles that can help preserve and encourage democratic governance. We remain committed to the defense and promotion of human rights, rule of law, and democracy. We strongly believe in measures to encourage respect and understanding of human rights and democratic principles, and support measures to promote education for democracy through public authorities, higher education institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Other potentially useful measures include promoting democratic citizenship and human rights education in teacher training, creating national action plans that include human rights education and training, and making programs focused on educating youth about democracy and human rights.

We furthermore believe that international networks such as Council of Europe's Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture can be beneficial for promoting human rights education from preschool through primary and secondary schooling to higher education, including adult education and vocational education. These networks can work to create systematic approaches to teaching, learning and assessing competences for democratic culture. Through collaborative efforts to promote human rights and democracy education, the global community can make progress in ensuring that democratic principles and human rights are respected and supported in the face of obstacles and challenges to these critical values.

### **Topic 2: Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation—a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use**

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Many important environmental problems are not confined within nations' borders. They often spread across political and physical boundaries, making cooperation across countries essential for effectively rising to meet modern environmental challenges. We strongly support the creation of transboundary protected areas, as well as intensified cross border cooperation between neighboring protected areas. We believe that sustainable development can be supported through transboundary cooperation networks of protected areas. Cooperation can be

reached through commonly identifying the risks certain transboundary areas face, and planning measures for eliminating or minimizing these risks. In addition to conservation of these classes of areas, sustainable use of resources can help minimize pressures on biodiversity. Benefits of biodiversity are significant for local actors, and their participation should be sought in these transboundary cooperation efforts. These efforts can be a tool to make common mindsets in people who live and work along border regions in order to provide better biodiversity protection and sustainable local livelihoods. We also believe that national biodiversity strategies can be linked to sustainability and biodiversity objectives set internationally in order to encourage cooperation amongst nations when it comes to common environmental goals, and the effects on humans that are linked to them. We support bilateral agreements, water management cooperation across borders, international cooperation on marine protection, and intergovernmental cooperation on preserving biodiversity as just a few of the measures nations can engage in together in order to safeguard both people and the environment.

We have participated in such transboundary environmental efforts, and seen positive results. For example, we have participated in regional cooperation concerning transboundary waters, an issue that can affect many regions of the globe. We therefore encourage fellow Member States to seek opportunities to engage in transboundary cooperation, not only for the sake of biodiversity and the well-being of the environment, but also for the sake of human health, security, and well-being.