

# FIRST SESSION

**Speech by Ms Silja Dögg Gunnarsdóttir**



**Ms Silja Dögg Gunnarsdóttir**  
President of the Nordic Council

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I just wanted to make a brief statement in light of the grave situation in Belarus - a country with strong ties to the Baltic Sea Region. The Nordic Council is deeply concerned about the situation in Belarus. I strongly encourage all of you who are present here today, to do what you can to support the people of Belarus and a peaceful transition to democracy in Belarus.

I would also like to add that we are deeply concerned about the situation for the rule of law, human rights and democracy - even within some of the member states of the European Union. The situation might have become even worse in the light of COVID-19.

The Nordic Council is therefore very pleased that these elements have been included in the resolution that we will adopt later today.

Thank you.