

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DECLARATION OF INTERVENTION

(Article 63 of the Statute)

SUBMITTED BY FINLAND

on 21 September 2022

ALLEGATIONS OF GENOCIDE UNDER THE CONVENTION ON
THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF
GENOCIDE

(UKRAINE *v.* RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

**FINLAND'S DECLARATION OF INTERVENTION UNDER ARTICLE 63 OF THE STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

To the Registrar, International Court of Justice, the undersigned being duly authorized by the Government of Finland:

1. I have the honour to submit to the Court a Declaration of Intervention pursuant to article 63(2) of the Statute of the Court in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*.

2. Article 82(2) of the Rules of Court provides that a State that desires to avail itself of the right of intervention conferred upon it by article 63 of the Statute shall file a declaration that specifies the name of an agent, the case and the convention to which the declaration relates and shall contain:
 - (a) particulars of the basis on which the declarant State considers itself a party to the convention;
 - (b) identification of the particular provisions of the convention the construction of which it considers to be in question;
 - (c) a statement of the construction of those provisions for which it contends;
 - (d) a list of documents in support, which documents shall be attached.

3. This Declaration addresses each of these requirements below, following some preliminary observations on the legal proceedings so far.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

4. On 26 February 2022, the Government of Ukraine instituted proceedings against the Russian Federation under article IX of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the "Genocide Convention") in accordance with articles 36(1) and 40 of the Statute of the Court. Together with the Application, Ukraine submitted a Request for the indication of provisional measures in accordance with article 41 of the Statute of the Court.

5. Ukraine contends (in paragraphs 2–12 of its Application) that there is a dispute between Ukraine and the Russian Federation relating to the interpretation, application or fulfilment of the Genocide Convention.

6. Ukraine further states (in paragraph 2) that:

“...the Russian Federation has falsely claimed that acts of genocide have occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine, and on that basis recognized the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic,” and then declared and implemented a “special military operation” against Ukraine with the express purpose of preventing and punishing purported acts of genocide...”

and (in paragraph 28) that:

“Russia’s actions erode the core obligation of Article I of the Convention, undermine its object and purpose, and diminish the solemn nature of the Contracting Parties’ pledge to prevent and punish genocide.”

7. On 7 March 2022, a hearing, in which Russia did not participate, was held on the Request for the indication of provisional measures. Russia, however, furnished the Court with a document in which it contended that the Court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the case. The document also stated that the Court should refrain from indicating provisional measures and remove the case from the list.

8. On 16 March 2022, the Court ordered that:

(1) The Russian Federation shall immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine;

(2) The Russian Federation shall ensure that any military or irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it, as well as any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control or direction, take no steps in furtherance of the military operations referred to in point (1) above; and

(3) Both Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

9. On 30 March 2022, as contemplated in article 63(1) of the Statute of the Court, the Registrar duly notified Finland as a party to the Genocide Convention that by Ukraine’s Application, the Genocide Convention “is invoked both as a basis for the Court’s jurisdiction and the substantive basis of [Ukraine’s] claims on the merits”. The registrar also noted that:

“Ukraine seeks to found the Court’s jurisdiction on the compromissory clause contained in Article IX of the Genocide Convention, asks the Court to declare that it has not committed a genocide as defined in Articles II and III of the Convention, and raises questions concerning the scope of the duty to prevent and punish genocide under Article I of the Convention. It therefore appears that the construction of [the Genocide Convention] will be in question in this case”¹

10. Finland recalls that the rights and obligations contained in the Genocide Convention are of an *erga omnes partes* character. In its 1951 Advisory Opinion, the Court stated that: “In such a convention the contracting States do not have any interests of their own; they merely have, one and all, a common

¹ Letter from the Registrar of the Court of 30 March 2022 – see Annex I.

interest, namely, the accomplishment of those high purposes which are the *raison d'être* of the convention.”² The Court has later “...affirmed that such a common interest implies that the obligations in question are owed by any State party to all the other States parties to the relevant convention; they are obligations *erga omnes partes*, in the sense that each State party has an interest in compliance with them in any given case.” Moreover, the prohibition on genocide is a peremptory norm of general international law (*jus cogens*).³

11. As a State Party, Finland therefore has a direct interest in the proper interpretation, application and fulfilment of the obligations contained in the Genocide Convention. For this reason, Finland has decided to avail itself of the right to intervene as a non-party under article 63(2) of the Statute of the Court.

12. The Court has recognized that article 63 confers a “right” of intervention⁴. The Court has also underlined that such an intervention “is limited to submitting observations on the construction of the convention in question and does not allow the intervenor, which does not become a party to the proceedings, to deal with any other aspect of the case before the Court; and whereas such intervention cannot affect the equality of the Parties to the dispute”.⁵

13. The intervention of Finland pertains to the issues relating to the construction of the Genocide Convention that arise in the context of the dispute. ⁶ Finland considers that at least articles I, VIII and IX of the Convention are relevant to this dispute. Finland presents its interpretation of these articles in accordance with the customary rules of interpretation as reflected in article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

14. Article 63 of the Statute of the Court makes no distinction between jurisdictional issues and issues of substance. As stated by Judge Schwebel, “intervention in the jurisdictional phase of a proceeding is within the scope of rights with which States are endowed by the terms of Article 63”⁷. Accordingly,

² *Reservations to the Convention on Genocide*, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. Reports 1951, p. 23.

³ *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2007, p. 71–72, para. 161; *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (New Application: 2002) (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda)*, Jurisdiction and Admissibility, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2006, p. 31, para. 64.

⁴ *Haya de la Torre Case*, Judgment of June 13, 1951: I.C.J. Reports 1951, p. 76; *Continental Shelf (Tunisia/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)*, Application to Intervene, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 1981, p. 13, para. 21.

⁵ *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan), Declaration of Intervention of New Zealand*, Order of 6 February 2013, I.C.J. Reports 2013, p. 9, para. 18.

⁶ *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, ICJ, 22 July 2022, p. 31, para. 87: “The Court will have recourse to the rules of customary international law on treaty interpretation as reflected in Articles 31 to 33 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969”; see also *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Qatar v. United Arab Emirates)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2021, p. 28, para. 75 with further references.

⁷ See Opinion of Judge Schwebel in *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America)*, *Declaration of Intervention of El Salvador*, Order of 4 October 1984, I.C.J. Reports 1984, p. 235–236.

interventions on both aspects are allowed⁸, and the words “as soon as possible” in article 82 of the Rules of Court confirm that the filing of an article 63 declaration is admissible at this stage of the proceedings. In compliance with that requirement, this Declaration has been submitted at the earliest date feasible for Finland.

15. Finland does not seek to become a party to the proceedings and accepts that the construction of the Genocide Convention given by the judgment in this case will be equally binding upon it.

BASIS ON WHICH FINLAND IS PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

16. Finland acceded to the Convention and deposited its instrument of accession in accordance with article XI (4) of the Convention on 18 December 1969.

PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION IN QUESTION IN THE CASE

17. The issues raised in the dispute turn on the proper construction of articles I, VIII and IX of the Genocide Convention. This intervention focuses on the said articles inasmuch as they pertain to the jurisdiction of the Court. At the same time, Finland reserves the right to supplement this Declaration and the scope of its observations to the extent that any additional matters regarding the construction of any of the provisions of the Genocide Convention arise, or as Finland becomes aware of them upon receipt, pursuant to article 86(1) of the Rules of Court, of the pleadings and documents annexed to them.

STATEMENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROVISIONS

Article I

18. Ukraine contends that there is a dispute between it and the Russian Federation concerning “the question whether, as a consequence of the Russian Federation’s unilateral assertion that genocide is occurring, the Russian Federation has a lawful basis to take military action in and against Ukraine to prevent and punish genocide pursuant to Article I of the Genocide Convention.”⁹ Article I of the Genocide Convention provides:

⁸ MN Shaw (ed), *Rosenne’s Law and Practice of the International Court 1920-2015* (5th ed, Vol III, Brill Nijhoff 2016), p. 1533; H. Thirlway, *The Law and Procedure of the International Court of Justice: Fifty Years of Jurisprudence* (Vol I, OUP 2013), p. 1031; A. Miron/C. Chinkin, “Article 63” in: Zimmermann/Tams/Oellers-Frahm/Tomuschat (eds), *The Statute of the International Court of Justice: A Commentary* (3rd ed. OUP 2019), p. 1763, note 46.

⁹ *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 16 March 2022 para. 31.

“The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.”

19. The Court has emphasized that in discharging their obligation to prevent genocide, the Contracting Parties must act within the limits permitted by international law.¹⁰ Paramount among the obligations limiting the freedom of action are the obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and the obligation to settle their disputes peacefully in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, both obligations based on the Charter of the United Nations. In any event, any State Party contemplating unilateral measures in fulfilment of its obligations under article I must bear in mind that certain acts prohibited by peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*), such as aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity, may never be justified on the basis of article I.¹¹

20. Moreover, the obligation under article I must be performed in good faith (article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). As the Court has observed, the principle of good faith “obliges the Parties to apply [a treaty] in a reasonable way and in such a manner that its purpose can be realized”¹².

21. The correct reading of the undertaking to prevent genocide takes also into account the final recital in the preamble of the Convention, which emphasizes the need for international co-operation. The United Nations Human Rights Council has called upon all States, “in order to deter future occurrences of genocide, to cooperate, including through the United Nations system, in strengthening appropriate collaboration between existing mechanisms that contribute to the early detection and prevention of massive, serious and systematic violations of human rights that, if not halted, could lead to genocide”.¹³

22. The obligation to prevent further implies that prior to taking any action pursuant to article I, a State Party must assess whether a genocide or a serious risk of genocide is indeed present. A State purporting to act to prevent genocide is under a due diligence obligation to gather evidence of the situation from independent sources, such as independent investigations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

23. The obligation to punish in article I of the Convention is limited to punitive measures of a criminal law character directed against individuals. This is confirmed by articles IV–VI of the Convention. Thus, the obligation to punish genocide cannot be interpreted as allowing any other kinds of measures, in particular forcible or military measures to “punish” a State or a people.

¹⁰ *Case Concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2007, p. 221, para. 430; *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 16 March 2022, para. 57.

¹¹ The Court has recently stated that “... it is doubtful that the Convention, in light of its object and purpose, authorizes a Contracting Party’s unilateral use of force in the territory of another State for the purpose of preventing or punishing an alleged genocide. *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 16 March 2022, para 59.

¹² *Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 1997, p. 79, para. 142.

¹³ UN Human Rights Council, Resolution 43/29: Prevention of Genocide (29 June 2020), UN Doc A/HRC/RES/43/29, para. 11.

24. In light of the above, Finland concludes that article I of the Genocide Convention does not provide a legal basis for unilateral use of force in contravention to the Charter of the United Nations as a means to prevent or punish genocide.

Article VIII

25. Finland recalls that the prevention and suppression of genocide is a matter that concerns the international community as a whole.

26. Finland contends that the proper construction of article I of the Genocide Convention requires the said provision to be read in its context, including article VIII, which authorizes States Parties to “call upon competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide”. Article VIII thus gives further support to the reading of article I presented above, excluding unilateral measures in furtherance of a State Party’s national interest.

Article IX

27. Ukraine seeks to seize the Court on the basis of article 36(1) of the Statute of the Court and article IX of the Genocide Convention, which provides:

“Disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfilment of the present Convention, including those relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or for any of the other acts enumerated in Article III, shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute.”

28. Finland recalls that the term “dispute” is well-established in international law. The Court has characterized dispute as “a disagreement on a point of law or fact, a conflict of legal views or of interests” between parties.¹⁴ In order for a dispute to exist, “[i]t must be shown that the claim of one party is positively opposed by the other”.¹⁵ The two sides must “hold clearly opposite views concerning the question of the performance or non-performance of certain international obligations”.¹⁶ Moreover, “in

¹⁴ *Mavrommatis Palestine Concessions*, Judgment No. 2, 1924, P.C.I.J., Series A, No. 2, p. 11.

¹⁵ *South West Africa (Ethiopia v. South Africa; Liberia v. South Africa)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 1962, p. 328.

¹⁶ *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Qatar v. United Arab Emirates)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 23 July 2018, I.C.J. Reports 2018, p. 414, para. 18; *Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2016 (I), p. 26, para. 50, citing *Interpretation of Peace Treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania*, First Phase, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1950, p. 74.

case the respondent has failed to reply to the applicant's claims, it may be inferred from this silence, in certain circumstances, that it rejects those claims and that, therefore, a dispute exists"¹⁷.

29. The ordinary meaning of article IX suggests that there is no need to establish genocidal acts as a basis to affirm the Court's jurisdiction. Rather, the Court has jurisdiction over the question whether genocidal acts have been or are being committed or not.¹⁸ For this reason, the Court also has jurisdiction *ratione materiae* to declare the absence of genocide and the violation of a good faith performance of the Convention. In particular, the jurisdiction of the Court extends to disputes concerning the unilateral use of military force for the stated purpose of preventing and punishing alleged genocide¹⁹.

30. The context of the phrase "relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or for any of the other acts enumerated in article III" further confirms this reading. In particular, the word "including" in the intermediate sentence indicates a broader scope of article IX of the Convention when compared to a standard compromissory clause²⁰. Disputes relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or for any of the other acts enumerated in article III are therefore only one type of disputes covered by article IX, which are "included" in the wider phrase of disputes "relating to the interpretation, application and fulfilment" of the Convention²¹.

31. Article IX expressly provides for ICJ jurisdiction "at the request of *any of the parties* to the dispute" (emphasis added). This wording suggests that a State accused of committing genocide has the same right to submit the dispute to the Court as the State making the accusation. In particular, such an accused State may seek a "negative" declaration from the Court that the allegations from another State that it was responsible for genocide are without legal and factual foundation.

32. Finally, the object and purpose of the Convention give further support to the wide interpretation of article IX. The Court has noted that "[a]ll the States parties to the Genocide Convention [thus] have a common interest to ensure the prevention, suppression and punishment of genocide, by committing themselves to fulfilling the obligations contained in the Convention"²². In its 1951 Advisory Opinion, the Court held²³:

¹⁷ *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, ICJ, 22 July 2022, p. 27, para. 71.

¹⁸ *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 16 March 2022, p. 10, para. 43; *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 23 January 2020, I.C.J. Reports 2020, p. 14, para. 30.

¹⁹ *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Provisional Measures, Order of 16 March 2022, p. 11, para. 45.

²⁰ *Case Concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2007, p. 75, para. 169.

²¹ See also the Written Observations of The Gambia on the Preliminary Objections raised by Myanmar, 20 April 2021, p. 28–29, para. 3.22 ("The inclusion of disputes "relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide" among those that can be brought before the Court unmistakably means that responsibility for genocide can be the object of a dispute brought before the Court by any contracting party").

²² *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*, Preliminary Objections, Judgment, ICJ, 22 July 2022, p. 36, para. 107.

²³ *Reservations to the Convention on Genocide*, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. Reports 1951, p. 23.

“The Convention was manifestly adopted for a purely humanitarian and civilizing purpose. It is indeed difficult to imagine a convention that might have this dual character to a greater degree, since its object on the one hand is to safeguard the very existence of certain human groups and on the other to confirm and endorse the most elementary principles of morality. In such a convention the contracting States do not have any interests of their own; they merely have, one and all, a common interest, namely, the accomplishment of those high purposes which are the *raison d'être* of the convention. Consequently, in a convention of this type one cannot speak of individual advantages or disadvantages to States, or of the maintenance of a perfect contractual balance between rights and duties. The high ideals which inspired the Convention provide, by virtue of the common will of the parties, the foundation and measure of all its provisions.”

33. In light of the above, Finland contends that article IX of the Genocide Convention provides a basis for the Court’s jurisdiction in a dispute concerning false claims of genocide when they amount to abusive invoking of article I of the Convention.

DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE DECLARATION

34. The following is a list of the documents in support of this Declaration, which are attached hereto:

(a) Letter from the Registrar of the International Court of Justice to the Ambassador of Finland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 30 March 2022. (Annex I)

(b) Instrument of accession by the Government of Finland to the Genocide Convention. (Annex II)

SUMMARY OF FINLAND’S CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION

35. Finland contends, firstly, that article I of the Genocide Convention does not provide a legal basis for unilateral use of force in contravention to the United Nations Charter as a means to prevent or punish genocide. Secondly, Finland contends that article IX of the Genocide Convention is a broad jurisdictional clause, including the ‘fulfilment’ of obligations under that Convention, and does as such confer the Court jurisdiction to declare the absence of genocide.

CONCLUSION

36. On the basis of the information set out above, Finland avails itself of the right conferred upon it by article 63(2) of the Statute to intervene as a non-party in the proceedings brought by Ukraine against the Russian Federation in this case.

37. The Government of Finland has appointed Kaija Suvanto, Director-General of the Legal Service of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as Agent for the purposes of this Declaration, and Tarja Långström, Deputy Director of the Unit for Public International Law, as Co-Agent. The Registrar of the Court is kindly requested to channel all communication through them at the following address:

Embassy of Finland
Fluwelen Burgwal 58
2511 CJ THE HAGUE
The Netherlands.

Yours sincerely,



Kaija Suvanto
AGENT OF FINLAND



Tarja Långström
CO-AGENT OF FINLAND

ANNEX I

LETTER FROM THE REGISTRAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE TO THE STATES PARTIES TO THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION



156413

30 March 2022

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my letter (No. 156253) dated 2 March 2022 informing your Government that, on 26 February 2022, Ukraine filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of the Russian Federation in the case concerning Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation). A copy of the Application was appended to that letter. The text of the Application is also available on the website of the Court (www.icj-cij.org).

Article 63, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court provides that:

[w]henever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, the Registrar shall notify all such States forthwith".

Further, under Article 43, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court:

"Whenever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties may be in question within the meaning of Article 63, paragraph 1, of the Statute, the Court shall consider what directions shall be given to the Registrar in the matter."

On the instructions of the Court, given in accordance with the said provision of the Rules of Court, I have the honour to notify your Government of the following.

In the above-mentioned Application, the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (hereinafter the "Genocide Convention") is invoked both as a basis of the Court's jurisdiction and as a substantive basis of the Applicant's claims on the merits. In particular, the Applicant seeks to found the Court's jurisdiction on the compromissory clause contained in Article IX of the Genocide Convention, asks the Court to declare that it has not committed a genocide as defined in Articles II and III of the Convention, and raises questions concerning the scope of the duty to prevent and punish genocide under Article I of the Convention. It therefore appears that the construction of this instrument will be in question in the case.

./.

[Letter to the States parties to the Genocide Convention
(except Ukraine and the Russian Federation)]

Your country is included in the list of parties to the Genocide Convention. The present letter should accordingly be regarded as the notification contemplated by Article 63, paragraph 1, of the Statute. I would add that this notification in no way prejudices any question of the possible application of Article 63, paragraph 2, of the Statute, which the Court may later be called upon to determine in this case.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Philippe Gautier
Registrar

ANNEX II

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND TO THE GENOCIDE
CONVENTION

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS : UNATIONS NEWYORK · ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

C.N.204.1959.TREATIES-4

26 January 1960

FILE NO.:

CONVENTION OF 9 DECEMBER 1948 ON THE PREVENTION
AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

ACCESSION BY FINLAND

Sir,

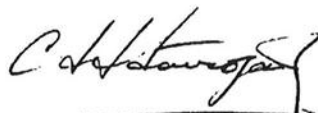
I am directed by the Secretary-General to inform you that, on 18 December 1959, the instrument of accession by the Government of Finland to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1948, was deposited with the Secretary-General in accordance with article XI of the Convention.

The instrument contains the stipulation that the Government of Finland accedes to the said Convention

"..... subject to the provisions of Article 47, paragraph 2, of the Constitution Act, 1919, concerning the impeachment of the President of the Republic of Finland."

This notification is made in accordance with article XVII(a) of the said Convention.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Constantin A. Stavropoulos
Legal Counsel