



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**STATEMENT
BY
MR. GERALDO SARANGA
DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
COOPERATION**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 78: CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

**DURING THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2022

Chairperson

Crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. They must be prevented in accordance with national and international law.

We align ourselves with statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco, on behalf of the African Group, on this matter.

Speaking in our national capacity, my delegation would like to express support to the Draft Articles submitted by the International Law Commission on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, as we believe on their importance and appropriateness to strengthen international cooperation, through prevention and punishment of these crimes.

It is also our understanding that the above-mentioned Draft Proposals contain the necessary safeguards for giving priority the jurisdiction of States with closer links to the crimes, an issue which, among others, continue to be a concern to a large part of the States. Further discussions on this aspect can be deepened.

We consider that the broader international codification and progressive development of rules on crimes against

humanity and the strengthening of international cooperation are necessary and complementary.

Chairperson

Mozambique has recently updated its Criminal Code by criminalizing crimes against humanity. The new Code establishes territorial jurisdiction over nationals and foreigners, as well as extra-territorial jurisdiction over its nationals, if they have not been tried by the competent foreign jurisdiction.

In addition, our Law on International Legal and Judicial Cooperation and the Extradition Regime have also been recently updated, promoting international cooperation in the fight against all types of crimes.

Mozambique has signed international legal and judicial cooperation agreements on criminal matters with many States and regional organizations, such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

In this context and despite the differences that remain, and which we consider to be details, albeit important, but possible to overcome, we believe that the call for the codification of standards, must prevail. Therefore, we are in favour of the drafting of an international Convention

on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity.

We therefore appeal to this Committee to adopt, in an expeditious manner, an inclusive process for the elaboration of the above mentioned Convention with a view to its universal ratification. Mozambique is ready to collaborate towards this end.

To conclude, we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to commend the work of the International Law Commission in promoting the codification and development of international law, which is directly linked to the work of our Sixth Committee.

Thank you very much.