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Statement by Mr. Dongkyu Moon (First Secretary)  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
Crimes against Humanity (Agenda 78)  
Sixth Committee, 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA  
New York

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Crimes against humanity are some of the most serious crimes for which the international community has expressed its grave concerns. It is not a problem of the past, but very much one of our time. It is imperative that we act now to prevent and punish crimes against humanity.

It is well known that the international community has made treaties to address international crimes such as genocide and war crimes. A convention to prevent and punish crimes against humanity will fill a major gap in international law. In addition, such a convention will help in establishing domestic laws and regulations regarding crimes against humanity. Taking into due consideration harmony with existing international law will help contribute to the universal participation of states.

To date, the Republic of Korea has actively participated in the efforts of the international community to end impunity of international crimes. We support a formal, structured, inclusive and transparent approach to discussion regarding this agenda. In this regard, the Republic of Korea, with other like-minded countries, has jointly proposed the draft resolution establishing an Ad hoc Committee. The Ad hoc Committee will give states an opportunity to enhance their understanding of various opinions from each delegation and to find a way forward regarding the draft articles and recommendations by the International Law Commission (ILC). Without prejudicing the outcome of the Ad hoc Committee, discussion in the Committee would contribute to securing consensus.

The United Nations is where wisdom from around the world is gathered and shared. As

Member States, it would not be a responsible attitude to simply repeat one's position every year without allowing room for negotiation and progress. The Republic of Korea looks forward to constructive discussion in the 77<sup>th</sup> session and will sincerely engage in the consultations. /END/