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77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 78

Crimes against humanity

Statement by
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Mr. Chairman,

Greece aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union delegation. In addition to that, my delegation would like to make the following observations:

Greece, a staunch supporter of international law, attaches great importance at the present Agenda item. It considers the ILC Draft Articles on the crimes against humanity as having outmost importance as regards the fight against impunity for the most heinous crimes, among which are included the crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, Greece considers that the Draft Articles contribute significantly to the prevention of those crimes and to the strengthening of accountability by providing guidance to those States which have not yet adopted corresponding legislation regarding criminalization and prosecution at the domestic level.

Unlike other core international crimes, there is still no dedicated international convention establishing the obligation of States to criminalize, prevent and punish the crimes against humanity.

Back in 2019 once the work of the ILC on the Draft Articles was completed, the Commission recommended them to the General Assembly and more importantly recommended the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference on the basis of the draft articles.

Greece supported the recommendations of the ILC for the elaboration of a Convention on the basis of the Draft Articles.

In its successive sessions, the Sixth Committee and subsequently the General Assembly have adopted three Resolutions with identical content, the effect of which was to include this item in the Agenda of its forthcoming sessions with no further results, however, as to the way forward regarding the recommendations of the ILC on the Draft Articles.

This course of action is clearly not sustainable as to the further steps of the Sixth Committee on this agenda item. It is time to provide for an inclusive, effective and efficient framework that would allow to discuss and address concerns of delegations. This framework should clearly provide for the way to be followed and the timeline to achieve concrete results and deliverables. In this respect we invite States to engage constructively in the discussions on the Draft Resolution put forward by Mexico and other delegations.

In conclusion, Greece is of the opinion that the elaboration of an international penal convention for the domestic criminalization, prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity on the basis of the ILC Draft Articles adequately combined with the establishment of a procedural legal framework of inter-State cooperation in the fields of mutual legal assistance and extradition for core international crimes, through the Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative, would significantly enhance the ability of States to ensure accountability for such crimes, including the crimes against humanity.

Thank you