



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 78 “Crimes against humanity”

Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Romania

to the United Nations, H. E. Mr. Cornel Feruță

New York, 11 October 2022

Mister Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Our delegation welcomes the resumption of the discussions of the Sixth Committee on this important topic and is pleased to contribute to this debate for the first time.

We note with profound regret the continued relevance of the topic of crimes against humanity. The reality is that these heinous crimes continue to be perpetrated all around the world, including in Romania's close vicinity.

It is uncontested that crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole and that it is necessary to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes and thus to contribute to their prevention. However no dedicated multilateral treaty fit for this purpose exists. By contrast, the prevention and punishment of genocide and war crimes are the subjects of widely-ratified multilateral treaties.

We see a need to correct this gap and adopt a coherent approach in relation to all crimes of grave concern to the humankind to ensure that no fragmentation occurs, especially in what concerns inter-state cooperation and mutual legal assistance. Only in this manner the overall objective of prevention and punishment of these crimes can be effectively attained.

Mister Chair,

The International Law Commission, under the guidance of the Special Rapporteur Mr. Sean D. Murphy, undertook an impressive work on this topic and provided us with rich research material. In 2019, the International Law Commission (ILC) decided, in accordance with article 23 of its statute, to recommend the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity to the General Assembly. In particular, the

Commission recommended the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles.

Romania welcomed this recommendation and favours developing the draft articles into a global convention, which will provide a strong legal basis for inter-state cooperation on the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity.

Despite the encouraging level of engagement and interest from delegations, the discussions undertaken so far in the Sixth Committee have fallen short of a thorough consideration of the Commission's clear recommendation. Within the existing constraints and practices, Romania has tried to contribute to this process, from various roles and perspectives.

This session, we have a new opportunity to approach the way forward constructively and agree on establishing a dedicated forum and timeframe which will allow for open substantive exchanges between delegations on the articles and the Commission's recommendation.

We stand ready engage in any negotiations which will ensure a meaningful and predictable process towards the elaboration of a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, which should act as our shared goal.

I thank you!