

Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations

Statement by Hungary 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee Resumed Session: Crimes against humanity 10 April, 2023

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Madam (Mr.) Chair,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few observations in its national capacity.

As crimes against humanity pose a serious threat to the international community and the rules-based international order, strong and effective legal measures are desired to prevent them and bring perpetrators to justice. Unlike war crimes and genocide, crimes against humanity still fall mostly outside the treaty framework. Therefore, it is long overdue to address this legal gap with a convention that, solely by its existence, would help to fight impunity and would also reflect the strong determination of the international community in this regard.

Hungary applauds the effort of the International Law Commission (ILC) which in 2019 adopted the Draft Articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. We also wish to commend Prof. Sean Murphy for his excellent work as the rapporteur of the topic. Now, it is time to take further steps towards negotiating and adopting an international legally binding instrument based on the ILC's draft articles. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Benjamin B. Ferencz, a leading figure of international criminal law of Hungarian-Jewish descent, whose legacy still forms our thoughts on our fight against crimes against humanity. I conclude with his words: 'Law continues to be humanity's hope for a more just and peaceful world.'

Thank you for your attention.