



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations**

At the Resumed Sixth Committee Session

"Crimes against humanity"

United Nations, New York

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Thank you Mr./Madam Chair,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union on this agenda item, and would like to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Allow me first to thank everyone for the opportunity to discuss the Draft Articles on Crimes against Humanity, which have been adopted by the International Law Commission.

The Republic of Slovenia voices once more the support for a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries.

Seventy years after Nuremberg, the Commission's work to elaborate a text of a new global treaty on crimes against humanity is historically significant and is clearly an important contribution to both the progressive development and codification of international law. Slovenia is convinced that they represent an important basis for an international convention on this issue, since there is indeed a gap in the current international treaty framework on the prevention and criminalization of crimes against humanity. The international community must address this gap immediately.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The Republic of Slovenia is convinced that the adoption of a convention would in particular strengthen the ability of states to prosecute crimes against humanity at the national level. Furthermore, it would provide the legal basis for inter-state cooperation that is indeed a necessary precondition for effective national investigations and prosecutions.

In this respect, my delegation would also like to recall the so-called "MLA" initiative launched by Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal and Slovenia, actively working towards the adoption of a new convention on mutual legal assistance and cooperation between States with a view to improving the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of atrocity crimes at the national level. In our previous interventions, we have highlighted the importance of both initiatives which are mutually

supportive as they work towards the same goal. Both frameworks can be seen as complementary and can co-exist and continue to develop side by side.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The MLA diplomatic conference will take place in Slovenia, Ljubljana, on 15-26 May 2023. The adoption of the MLA convention will represent a major step towards enhancing state cooperation in the fight to end impunity for atrocity crimes by putting into practice the principle of complementarity. I would like to invite all states to participate at the upcoming conference in Ljubljana. Let us all take this step together to end impunity for atrocity crimes, committed around the globe.

Mr./Madam Chair,

[Preamble]

In light of this, Slovenia would like to recall the duty of every State to exercise its domestic criminal jurisdiction over perpetrators of the most unspeakable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Even though there is a long way ahead of us, we must lead the global efforts to strengthen the legal framework for prosecuting perpetrators of one of the most serious international crimes without any further delay. For that reason, we must make the most of this session to work towards a clear way forward.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.