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Thank you Madam Chair,

As we have stated in our submission to the ILC after the first reading of the Draft Articles, we take the view of many other states that the articles containing the definitions of Crimes against Humanity should be as widely accepted as possible in order to gain global acceptance, to the extent possible.

Unfortunately, an approach which recreates the Rome Statute word for word may not be effective means of ensuring wide acceptance by States not member of the ICC. Comprehensive treatment of the prohibition on Crimes against Humanity would benefit the international community, as well as the dissemination of a treaty prohibiting Crimes against Humanity.

The present draft articles do not share the same legal umbrella as the Rome Statute – as they are meant to be applied in domestic courts rather than an international tribunal that acts within its own system. If these two legal vehicles unify – we risk confusion and inconsistency with a convention that concerns legal proceedings in a closed, specific system. Therefore, in order to streamline the work of different domestic courts and avoid the confusion with the closed system of the ICC, Israel is of the view that the Draft Articles should reflect principles that are in consensus and are already widely accepted by different and diverse legal systems, including non-members of the ICC.

At the same time, it is important that the scope of the draft articles will remain focused on the most severe crimes, and to that end, safeguards should be placed in order to prevent abuse or misuse of this important tool.

Thank you Chair.