

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

13 April 2023

**Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Agenda Item 78: Crime Against Humanity (Cluster V):**

Madam Chair,

The State of Palestine is a strong supporter of a victim-oriented approach. The role of the victims and witnesses is indispensable and their right to reparations is intrinsic to any efforts to prevent and punish crimes against humanity.

The draft articles as a whole should reflect applicable standards and best practice concerning victims' rights. The rights to victims to reparations must be consistent with international law and the numerous normative standards ensuring accessibility for all victims, with respect to both procedural and substantive aspects of complaints or reparations, and should be considered here.

The protection afforded in Draft Article 12(1)(b) makes clear that complainants, witnesses, relatives, representatives, and other participants shall be protected against ill-treatment and intimidation. We look forward to further discussing this subparagraph with other States to ensure a wider protection for victims and those cooperating with them.

We note that the Commentaries express clear goal to have a more comprehensive concept of reparation, including for material and moral damages. We welcome the inclusion of collective basis, as entire peoples can be victims to crimes against humanity and their collective right to reparations and redress must be enshrined.