



# New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

## United Nations General Assembly: Sixth Committee Debate on Crimes Against Humanity – Statement by New Zealand

Delivered by Luke Roughton

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Thank you Chair,

I take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to the International Law Commission, and Special Rapporteur, Mr Sean Murphy, for their extensive and dedicated work on this topic, culminating in the adoption of the draft articles and commentaries by the Commission at its 71st session in 2019.

The work of the Special Rapporteur and the Commission provides a strong basis for Member States to consider the negotiation of a draft convention on crimes against humanity.

Crimes against humanity – along with genocide and war crimes – represent the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, and threaten peace, security and well-being, wherever they occur.

New Zealand reaffirms its belief that the commission of such crimes must be condemned, and that Member States must make every effort to prevent and punish their commission.

We recognise that the effective prevention and prosecution of such crimes is enabled by taking measures at the national level, and by enhancing international cooperation, including with respect to extradition and mutual legal assistance.

The articles adopted by the Commission also recognise this, and contain provisions dedicated to these topics.

New Zealand considers that the elaboration of a convention, based on the work of the International Law Commission on this topic, would complete the important exercise of codification of these crimes.

Because such crimes are of concern to the entire international community, and in the interests of fostering widespread cooperation of states in this area, we believe the way forward must be the subject of a broad-based and inclusive dialogue.

We support efforts to proceed towards a roadmap for negotiation of a draft convention, and look forward to working with all other Member States to that end.

Thank you.