



STATEMENT

BY

MR. AMADOU JAITEH

**LEGAL ADVISER PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
GAMBIA TO THE UN**

**ON BEHALF A CROSS-REGIONAL GROUP OF
MEMBER STATES**

AGENDA ITEM 80: CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

SEPTEMBER 11TH /12TH, 2023

SIXTH COMMITTEE

NEW YORK

Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, the European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, the Republic of the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, the State of Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Vanuatu.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Alongside the crime of genocide and war crimes, crimes against humanity are among the gravest offences known to humankind.

Throughout history, millions have suffered from such crimes and, sadly, these crimes remain too common in today's world, threatening our peace, security, and well-being.

However, while both the crime of genocide and war crimes have their own conventions, crimes against humanity do not have a dedicated treaty - despite their recognition by the international community over 75 years ago in the Statutes of the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, and their potential wide application to many contemporary situations. We therefore continue to see a gap in the international treaty framework.

A convention on crimes against humanity would strengthen the prevention and punishment of such heinous crimes at the national level. It would also establish obligations for States to cooperate and provide a new legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Last April, we were delighted to see members of the Sixth Committee engage in a substantive and detailed legal dialogue on the draft articles of the International Law Commission on crimes against humanity. It was a constructive experience for the Sixth Committee as a whole to move beyond a procedural debate and we hope it will be replicated in April next year.

It is important to continue discussing and understanding our respective positions, as progress can only be made through structured dialogue and engagement.

To conclude, Mr./Madam Chair, we reiterate our commitment to the process agreed by the Sixth Committee. We will continue to engage constructively, and invite all delegations to do the same, with the view to taking a decision on this matter in the 79th session of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 77/249.

Thank you.