



Statement by Mr. Bahram Heidari
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the Sixth Committee of the
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On Agenda item 80:
“Crimes against Humanity”
New York, 11 October 2023

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation extends its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its work in providing the draft articles on the “Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity” contained in the report of the ILC on the work of its seventy-first session (A/74/10). My delegation reaffirms the Islamic Republic of Iran’s unwavering commitment to the prevention and punishment of such heinous crimes.

In line with paragraph 4 of the resolution 77/249, my delegation actively participated in the resume session of the Sixth Committee for consideration of the draft articles last April. My delegation is also committed to provide its comments on the draft articles in writing to the Secretary-General by the end of 2023. At the same time, we sincerely request the Bureau and the Secretariate of the Sixth Committee to accurately reflect all critical recommendations and comments of delegations when compiling the written summary of the deliberations, as mandated in paragraph 5 of the said resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

Recognizing that a crime against humanity is a serious crime under international law affecting the entire international community, confronting such a heinous crime requires collective and unanimous action by the entire international community.



The current fragmentation of views on both the draft articles, as well as the recommendation of the ILC concerning the modalities on the fate of the draft, hinder a united response to the perpetrators of such crimes as well as their prevention.

In addition, attempts to incorporate definitions emanating from non-universal instruments, as well as national laws and practices in the context of progressive development, have stymied our progress by preventing Member States from further reaching consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation takes note of the several requests Member States have consistently made during the last sessions of the Sixth Committee to conduct further holistic and substantive consideration of the draft articles and ensure its consistency with their national laws.

While the Committee is considered the appropriate forum, my delegation encourages the Committee to continue its deliberations on this agenda item, and moving forward with a holistic approach regarding all existing products of the ILC that are pending before the Sixth Committee. therefore, my delegation expresses its dissatisfaction regarding the selectivity of the ILC's products wherein several remain pending in this Committee years before the submission of the draft articles on Crimes Against Humanity.

Thank you