



## Seventy-eighth session of the Sixth Committee, Agenda Item 80 “Crimes Against Humanity”, 11 October 2023.

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Augustina Siman, Senior Policy Advisor for Legal Affairs

---

I thank you Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you as well as the members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation in fulfilling your important mandate.

Malta aligns itself with the cross-regional statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Gambia, as well as with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to deliver the following remarks in national capacity:

We value the important work of the International Law Commission and are supportive of the effort made towards drafting a set of articles for a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, especially in the circumstances of *non liquet*. The international community is in need of a global instrument dedicated to preventing and punishing the respective crimes and promoting inter-State cooperation in that regard.



The world should not remain silent when murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and all other inhumane acts listed in draft article 2 are committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population; and the overwhelming majority of the UN membership did not remain silent, but rather demonstrated substantial involvement during the April 2023 resumption of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee work, reconfirming the need and interest for the draft articles. Likewise, throughout the debates on the five clusters echoed a sense that the resumed session provided a good format for in-depth discussion and that accountability for crimes against humanity is essential.

We look forward to progressing our work in April next year, and we see the consensus building potential of legal dialogue. The previous exercise of session resumption, as mandated by resolution A/RES/77/249, enhanced the relationship between the 6th Committee and the International Law Commission and we look forward to constructively consider the Commission's recommendation on the topic.

I thank you.