



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL. (212) 744-2506

Check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

H.E. KRZYSZTOF SZCZERSKI

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

78TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 80:
“CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY”**

NEW YORK, 12TH OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I would first like to congratulate the Chair and the other Members of the Bureau on their appointment and assure you of our full support and cooperation towards a successful session.

Poland associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and the cross regional statement delivered by Gambia. Let me highlight some issues in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Poland reiterates its support for the elaboration of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity based on the Draft Articles prepared by the International Law Commission. As in previous years, we hold the view that a new instrument is urgently needed. Both, the OSCE's Moscow Mechanism and the UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine indicate that a state neighbouring Poland, the Russian Federation, is committing crimes against humanity on the territory of another state with which we share a border - Ukraine. Against this background, we have to bear in mind that under customary international law, all States have the obligation to prevent, prosecute and punish such crimes.

As we have done consistently throughout the ILC's work on this topic, Poland strongly advocates a comprehensive, victim-oriented approach to prosecuting international crimes. This includes the need for a direct reference to the obligation towards victims in the draft Article 3 as well as for the introduction of a separate provision on the rights of children. We are of the view that Articles 24 and 25 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance can be a valuable source of inspiration in this respect.

Mr. Chair,

Upholding international law is one of Poland's priorities. That is why we believe it is vitally important to supplement the current international treaty framework for the prevention and punishment of atrocity crimes. Such a step would also be a natural consequence of states recognizing the peremptory nature of the prohibition of crimes against humanity.

We stand ready to work with everyone in an inclusive and transparent manner towards ensuring swift and meaningful progress on this agenda item.

I thank you.