



STATEMENT

by

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Sixth Committee*

Crimes against humanity
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(check against delivery)

Mr. / Madam Chair,

I wish to align my delegation with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of the European Union and the Gambia and add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. / Madam Chair,

Slovakia has been consistent and clear in its support for the outcome of the work of the International Law Commission on the topic *Crimes against humanity* since the draft articles were submitted to the Sixth Committee for deliberations in 2019. We remain convinced that the set of 15 articles with commentaries, significant part of which reflect, in our view, customary international law, present a carefully drafted and solid basis for codification.

We welcome the exchange of substantive views on the articles earlier this year and thank all the delegations for their constructive engagement. We look forward to continuing this discussion in April next year with a view to broadening convergence among delegations on the substance of the articles.

Crimes against humanity are not a theoretical topic, just the previous year has clearly demonstrated that they are sadly still very much a reality. We thus hope that neither will all our discussion on prevention and punishment of these crimes end up just as a theoretical exercise when we meet here next year to decide on the way forward. Victims and future generations expect a clear, firm and tangible commitment from us, the international community that justice will prevail over violence, that impunity will not be tolerated. Making a decisive step towards a new convention on crimes against humanity would best demonstrate such commitment. Formal negotiations at a diplomatic conference would then present the ideal format for bridging the views on those aspects, where convergence will not have yet been reached.

I thank you.