



**SLOVENIA**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Ms Nataša Šebenik, Minister Plenipotentiary and Legal Adviser at the Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on**

**Agenda item 80: Crimes against humanity**

**78th Session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee**

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Mr /Madam Chair

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on this topic and wishes to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

After years of careful studies and decades after the Nuremberg trials, the International Law Commission presented the draft articles on crimes against humanity and recommended the adoption of a Convention. Moreover, the Commission entered the prohibition of crimes against humanity on the draft list of peremptory norms of general international law (*ius cogens*). These norms reflect and protect the fundamental values of the international community. They are universally applicable, accepted and recognised by the international community as a whole as norms from which no derogation is permitted.

Addressing crimes against humanity means working towards the protection of fundamental rights. Victims are people, who need a responsible approach of States and factual action – measures towards a safer national and global environment and peace, as these do not happen on their own. It is a primary responsibility of States to ensure protection and to build and reinforce an appropriate legal framework on criminalisation of crimes against humanity. This Convention would offer an additional legal tool for national jurisdictions and facilitate the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. It would also give a new legal basis for interstate cooperation and strengthening of accountability. The Convention would expand the opportunities and choices of States. The 21st century is high time to close this gap in the international legal framework and make meaningful progress to the benefit of us all.

Mr /Madam Chair,

In previous sessions and meetings, the MLA initiative was already presented. Slovenia is delighted that the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention was adopted in Slovenia this May. This landmark treaty will help to strengthen international legal cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other international crimes.

The conventions are mutually supportive and complementary as they work towards the same goal.

Mr /Madam Chair,

Worrying events in many parts of the world should be an impetus to continue constructive dialogue to advance and deepen the understanding of positions of members of the international community with the aim to bring divergent views closer together. Slovenia reiterates its commitment to continue engaging constructively in the substantive discussions that started in April this year. We voice once more our support for efforts leading to the opening of negotiations for a Convention. We believe that the fight against impunity begins on the national level and is implemented through active international cooperation.

Thank you.