



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 80 “Crimes against humanity”

Statement delivered by Ms. Alis Lungu, Second Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations

New York, 11 October 2023

Mister Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Our delegation welcomes the resumption of the debate in the Sixth Committee on the topic of the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Regrettably, these heinous crimes continue to be perpetrated all around the world, including in Romania's vicinity, making it a legal and moral imperative for us to address the gaps in the current international legal framework that could lead to impunity for their perpetrators.

No dedicated multilateral treaty fit for the purpose of preventing and punishing crimes against humanity exists. By contrast, the prevention and punishment of genocide and war crimes is the subject of widely-ratified multilateral treaties.

We support a coherent approach in relation to all crimes of grave concern to the humankind to ensure that no fragmentation occurs, especially in what concerns inter-state cooperation and mutual legal assistance. This is the only way to effectively achieve the overall objective of the prevention and punishment of such crimes.

Mister Chair,

In 2019, the International Law Commission (ILC) decided to recommend the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity to the General Assembly. In particular, the Commission recommended the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles.

Romania welcomed this recommendation and continues to favour developing the draft articles into a global convention, which will provide a strong legal basis for inter-state cooperation on the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity.

Last year, this Committee made an important step forward and decided to exchange substantive views, including in an interactive format, on all aspects of the draft articles, and to consider further the recommendation of the Commission through two dedicated, resumed sessions.

In our view, the discussions during the resumed session of the Sixth Committee that took place in April marked an inflection point. We see the constructive atmosphere that dominated the discussions, the interactive nature of the legal exchanges, as well as the broad convergence on the need to have a new convention as the main positive elements.

Romania intervened on all five clusters during those debates. We will continue to engage constructively in the next resumed session of the Committee on this topic, in April 2024.

We are of the view that, in parallel to the substantive discussions, we need to foster more mutual trust among delegations. Our shared goal of preventing impunity for crimes against humanity should help us achieve that. Romania is ready to continue playing a positive role in this respect!

I thank you!