



**Sixth Committee – Agenda item 78  
Resumption of the seventy-seventh session**

**Crimes against Humanity  
Cluster 1: Introductory provisions (Preamble and Article 1)**

**Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany  
1 April 2024**

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Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

As in previous stages of the Sixth Committee's deliberations, Germany reiterates the great importance it attaches to the project of a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity. Crimes against Humanity are among the most serious crimes known to humankind. We are witnessing these atrocities only too often.

Since the concept of Crimes against Humanity is well accepted, there remains an obvious gap outside the Rome Statute framework. There is currently no global convention governing the prevention and punishment of Crimes against Humanity, unlike with respect to genocide (the 1948 Genocide Convention) and war crimes (the 1949 Geneva Conventions).

We need to close this gap in order to strengthen accountability and bring such crimes to justice domestically and universally. A new convention would complement treaty law on the most serious crimes and foster inter-state cooperation with regard to their investigation, prosecution and punishment.

We welcome the positive approach to the recommendations agreed within the International Law Commission, which enjoy wide support throughout the international community. Since concerns and suggestions by various partners have been thoroughly evaluated and discussed, it is time to move forward and to proceed with elaborating a convention on this solid basis.

At this stage, our aim is to proceed by setting up a structured process towards treaty negotiations. We are convinced that a convention would provide further impetus to the prevention of atrocity crimes. The draft ILC articles will serve as a solid basis for successful negotiations conducted in an inclusive manner.

Germany remains strongly committed to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes. We fully support the elaboration of a Convention on Crimes against Humanity and will continue to proactively contribute to the process leading to its adoption.

Thank you.