



**United Nations General Assembly 78<sup>th</sup> Session  
Resumed Sixth Committee Session**

**Agenda Item 80: Crimes Against Humanity**

**Statement of Ireland on Cluster 1**

**Delivered by James Kirk  
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*New York, 1 April 2024*

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

Chair,

1. Ireland continues to support the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the International Law Commission's draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.
2. Ireland is broadly supportive of the preamble to the draft articles, including its recognition that crimes against humanity threaten international peace and security, its affirmation that such crimes must be prevented, and its determination to end impunity for such crimes.
3. Ireland has long been a strong supporter of the international criminal justice system as a means of ending impunity for international crimes and thereby contributing to the prevention of such crimes and the maintenance of international peace and security. Ireland has sought genuinely to facilitate the pursuit of accountability for international crimes in a principled and consistent manner, by calling for and supporting efforts to ensure accountability for such crimes regardless of where they occur and who may have committed them.
4. Ireland strongly believes that we must now redouble our efforts to consistently ensure accountability for international crimes. The recent and ongoing horrifying levels of violence suffered by civilians in conflicts shows that it is now more important than ever that we reinforce our system of international criminal justice and make any necessary improvements to it.
5. One such improvement is the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity. As Ireland and many others have said since this Committee began its consideration of the draft articles in 2019, a convention on the basis of these draft articles would close a stark gap in the international treaty law framework governing the prevention and punishment of international crimes.

6. Ireland was encouraged by discussions at last year's resumed session, where the majority of states was in favour of the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity. We have considered with interest the written comments submitted by states since then, and look forward to further discussions during this resumed session. We believe that these discussions will help us all to further clarify our views on the draft articles. And we are confident that any divergences of views on the precise content of the draft articles that remain after this session can be resolved during negotiations on the elaboration of a convention, which we believe should take place as soon as possible.
  
7. We thank the Bureau and Secretariat for facilitating this resumed session, and all delegations for their ongoing constructive engagement.

Thank you