



**Permanent Mission  
of Ukraine**  
to the UN

*Check against delivery*

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine  
72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Sixth Committee,  
Agenda Item 81: Report of the International Law Commission on the  
work of its sixty-ninth session  
(October 25, 2017)**

**Mr. Chairman (Madame Chair),  
Distinguished delegates,**

First of all, the delegation of Ukraine would like to thank the International Law Commission (ILC) for the comprehensive report on its 69<sup>th</sup> session and praise all members of the Commission for their hard work. We commend and support the ILC for its persistent dedication to the progressive development and codification of international law, as set out in Article 1 of its Statute.

As our country is suffering from Russia's aggression, we would like to emphasize Chapter IV of the Report «Crimes against humanity». The research conducted by IPHR's field mission in Ukraine indicates that both war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed during the ongoing conflict. Establishing universal legal framework for crimes against humanity has critical importance given the fact that there is no global convention dedicated to preventing and punishing crimes against humanity and promoting inter-State cooperation in that regard, even though crimes against humanity are likely no less prevalent than genocide or war crimes.

We also express hope that these draft articles would become a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, as was envisaged in proposal of the Commission at its sixty-fifth session in 2013.

We would like to share our views on Chapter X of the Report "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts", which continues to be a very important topic for our country considering its relevance and applicability to the situation in and around Ukraine, arising from the foreign armed aggression.

Experience shows that armed conflicts not only cause severe human suffering and extensive damage to civilian property and infrastructure, but also widespread destruction and degradation of the environment. The consequences are often wide-reaching and long-lasting, both for nature itself and for civilian population who depend on natural resources.

The Ukrainian side, in this regard, welcomes the establishment by the ILC during its 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts. We would like to express, in this regard, our esteem to Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, chairperson of the Working Group, and to all its members for their efforts in discussing, among other matters, ways forward in relation to the topic, as well as extend our appreciation to Ms. Marie G. Jacobsson, former Special Rapporteur, for her outstanding contribution to this issue over the last years.

The environmental impact of conflicts, from a humanitarian point of view, remains significant and continues to have direct consequences on human wellbeing and enjoyment of fundamental human rights. In this vein, we note that substantial work had already been done, in particular, on the provisionally adopted by the ILC at its 68<sup>th</sup> session draft principles 4, 6 to 8, and 14 to 18, which we believe have formed a good basis for future discussions on this issue. We are confident that by adhering to existing international legislation, as well as to these and other relevant principles, among others, principle 4, which addresses national implementation and enforcement of international law, the worldwide community will contribute to due environmental protection and reduction of conflict-related negative environmental impacts.

Ukraine supports further exploration by the Commission of relevant areas that could be addressed in its work, as outlined in its report, inter alia, issues of complementarity with relevant branches of international law, such as protection of the environment in situations of occupation, issues of responsibility and liability, the responsibility of non-State actors, and overall application of the draft principles to armed conflicts.

In this regard, our delegation welcomes the decision of the ILC to appoint Ms. Marja Lehto as Special Rapporteur on Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts and would like to use this opportunity to wish her every success in her future endeavours.

We will continue to follow the work of the ILC on this and other issues according to its agenda with great interest.

**I thank you.**