



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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Crimes against Humanity

Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic has followed the work of the International Law Commission on the topic of “Crimes against humanity” very closely. Every year we have presented our views on the newly adopted draft articles and we have also provided our written comments after their adoption on first reading in 2017.

We fully support the statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States on this topic. We believe that these draft articles deserve particular attention of the international community since their aim is to prevent and punish crimes against humanity and provide legal framework for interstate cooperation in this respect. We would like to recall that crimes against humanity are of such a grave nature that they shock the conscience of mankind and therefore all States have a duty to hold their perpetrators criminally responsible. The crimes against humanity form part of core crimes under international law, but unlike the other crimes, their prevention and punishment is regulated on an international level only partially and insufficiently.

The Czech Republic has always supported the elaboration of a complex convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity - a convention which would finally fill the legal gap and complement other conventions on prosecution of the most serious crimes under international law. We note with satisfaction that the adopted draft articles represent a model of a modern criminal law treaty and that they are based on comprehensive research taking duly into account other generally accepted criminal law instruments.

In this context, the Czech Republic again expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission and namely Special Rapporteur Sean Murphy for formulating these articles.

Fight against impunity for crimes under international law is a common goal but also a duty of all States and therefore the Czech Republic strongly supports this new legal framework that would assist in bringing the end to impunity for these crimes.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman - the Czech Republic remains committed to its duty not to let go these crimes unpunished and would like to express once again its support for the elaboration of convention on the basis of these draft articles, preferably by an international conference of plenipotentiaries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.