

Crimes against Humanity
Special Rapporteur: Sean D. Murphy (USA)

Thank you,

Germany highly welcomes the work of the International Law Commission on the topic of crimes against humanity. We take this opportunity to thank Special Rapporteur Sean Murphy also on this occasion for his outstanding contribution and the Commission for completing its work on the draft articles.

The Commission recommended the elaboration of a Convention on the basis of the draft articles. A new Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity would complement treaty law on core crimes and foster inter-state cooperation with regard to their investigation, prosecution and punishment. A new Convention would provide further impetus for the prevention of atrocity crimes and would represent a milestone in the common fight against impunity.

While the concept of crimes against humanity and indeed their definition are well accepted, there is - with the notable exception of the Rome Statute - no international convention on this core crime. We deem it important that all States - including those that have expressed certain reservations with regard to the ICC as an institution, would have at their disposal a legal instrument that aims at preventing and punishing crimes against humanity at the national level. The draft articles do not contain unusual or burdensome obligations for states. They rather remain within the familiar framework of international criminal cooperation.

This year's General Assembly has the important task to agree on a structured approach for future negotiations on the new Convention and to put this important project on track. Germany invites all Member States to engage in deliberations on how to move forward towards adoption of a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity.

Thank you.