



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

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**75th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

**Crimes against humanity
(item 81)**

New York, 14 October 2020

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to align my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union. I would like to add a few additional remarks in national capacity

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia wishes to repeat its appreciation for last year's outcome of the work of the International Law Commission on the topic *Crimes against humanity*. We are convinced that the set of 15 articles with commentaries present more than a solid basis for a new convention. It is our firm belief that significant part of the articles reflect customary international law, thus together with the remaining carefully drafted articles form a genuinely suitable outcome for immediate codification.

Slovakia fully endorses the recommendation of the Commission to the General Assembly to proceed to the elaboration of convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the articles. We have a slight preference for the second option, since a diplomatic codification conference seems to be the more suitable forum.

Having said that, we would like to address the potential overlap of the so-called MLA initiative with the draft articles. Despite the view of former Special Rapporteur, Slovakia believes these two initiatives are complementary. Moreover, the diplomatic conference would allow enough space for States to ensure the complementarity between them. For this reason, we strongly encourage other States not to use this argument as a bar to proceed to the elaboration of the convention on crimes against humanity on the basis of the ILC articles.

Mr. Chair,

This year has been massively affected by the pandemics unprecedented in the modern history of humankind, paralyzing almost every aspect of our lives. Notwithstanding that, it cannot dilute our attention and efforts from our common goal of strengthening

international criminal law framework via codification of the work of the ILC on the topic of crimes against humanity. On contrary, in these challenging times, the world needs to see strong response from the UN and international community, not falling short on its principles or objectives. Having this in mind, Slovakia urges all States to work together to make significant progress on this topic.

It is our understanding that the ILC recommendation is widely supported. Therefore, we are open and willing to engage with all States to identify and establish a mechanism, based on a clear timeline and process, resulting in convening a diplomatic conference, thus allowing the predominant perception on this topic among States to materialize.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman,

The fight against the gravest crimes under international law is as relevant today as ever. We are witnessing not only a continuation of the long-lasting suffering in numerous conflicts around the globe, but also facing newly unleashed hostilities already invoking various allegations. Elaborating and adopting a convention on crimes against humanity would be a much needed addition to the legal framework enabling to pursue the noble goals of fight against impunity. It would also send a clear message that atrocities are no more acceptable for the whole international community.

I thank you.