

**Statement by the Republic of Turkey
on Agenda Item 81
(Crimes against humanity)
at the Sixth Committee
15 October 2020**

Mr. Chair,

We would like to thank once again the International Law Commission and Special Rapporteur Sean Murphy for their work in preparing the draft articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Crimes of the most serious nature, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, terrorism and torture pose existential threats against human dignity and against the core principles on which we have established the United Nations. Preventing these crimes and fighting impunity is without doubt a common essential goal for the international community.

It is indeed the essential nature of this challenge that obliges us to address it in a diligent and inclusive manner which will enable all nations to act in unison towards their shared goal.

Last December, the General Assembly took note of the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission, and decided to continue examining the Commission's recommendation regarding these articles.

We believe that thorough consideration by States of each other's views concerning various aspects of the matter constitutes an important first step in the overall examination by the Sixth Committee of the Commission's recommendation. This is why Turkey supported last year the proposal to request States to provide written views, and suggested that States be invited to consider the Commission's recommendation in view of the draft articles themselves as well as the comments of Member States. We hope that this will be possible in the period ahead.

Mr. Chair,

Similar to the potentially adverse effects of a lack of unity in how we approach this matter, duplication and divergence of actions could also risk undermining the impact of any steps that Member States may take within and outside the United Nations, as well as the efforts to ensure efficiency and harmonization in the work of this organization. This was also referred to by the Special Rapporteur himself in his last report on the topic.

Turkey was among those delegations that shared comments in the previous stages of this topic, and we look forward to continuing consideration of this matter and the recommendation before us, based on a comprehensive understanding of States' views, as well as of the status and possible outcome of other initiatives that aim to reach similar goals.

Thank you.