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National Statement of Hungary
on
Crimes against humanity
13 October 2021

Intervention by
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Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

Madam Chair,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few observations in its national capacity.

As crimes against humanity pose a serious threat to the international community and the rules-based international order, strong and effective legal measures are desired to prevent them and bring perpetrators to justice. Unlike war crimes and genocide, crimes against humanity still fall mostly outside the treaty framework. Therefore, it is long overdue to address this legal gap with a convention that, solely by its existence, would help to fight impunity and would also reflect the strong determination of the international community in this regard.

Hungary applauds the effort of the International Law Commission (ILC), which at its 71st session in 2019 adopted the Draft Articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. We also wish to commend Prof. Sean Murphy for his excellent work as the rapporteur of the topic. Now, we believe, it is time to take further steps towards negotiating and adopting an international legally binding instrument based on the ILC's draft articles. Therefore, Hungary is fully committed to establishing an ad hoc committee or working group within the Sixth Committee, open to all Member States and observers of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, with a twofold mandate to sort out issues that are hindering the agreement on the draft articles and to consider further steps to elaborate a convention either by the UN General Assembly or by an international diplomatic conference on the basis of the draft articles.

Madam Chair,

The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected work on the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes, also known as MLA, which is complementary to the draft articles. Hungary welcomes the initiative which aims at enhancing inter-state cooperation in the prosecution of these heinous international crimes. We firmly believe that it could serve as a strong basis for States to cooperate and eliminate safe havens that provide impunity for the perpetrators. Hungary hopes that the postponed diplomatic conference will be held in the near future and Member States can rally their forces to finalize the draft Convention.

Thank you, Madam (Mr.) Chair.