



SIXTH COMMITTEE

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Statement by

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Crimes against Humanity

Agenda Item 83

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United Nations, New York

Thank you Madame Chair,

Given the Jewish people's history, the State of Israel attaches great importance to the work of the International Law Commission on this topic, and has welcomed it from the outset. Our support for this topic stems from our consistent commitment to the prevention and punishment of the gravest international crimes, including crimes against humanity.

Israel recalls the discussions regarding the draft articles in the 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Sixth Committee, and notes the widely divergent views of Member States, both with regard to the substantive content of the draft articles, as well as their future form. With these differences in mind, Israel believes that meaningful and inclusive discussions among States should take place, with a view to forming consensus on this matter.

In this context, Israel reiterates its suggestion to establish a forum in the framework of the Sixth Committee in which States would come prepared to review this matter, and engage in an inclusive and robust discussion focused on clarifying outstanding issues and resolving significant differences, with an eye towards examining the potential elaboration of a future convention. Israel believes that such a proposal would allow this important project to move forward in a constructive manner, while at the same time would encourage consensus-building among Member States. Israel would come to these discussions ready to engage actively, and to share our substantive comments and concerns regarding this matter.

Madame Chair,

In this vein, among the areas that remain to be addressed in this regard, is the need to put in place effective safeguards to prevent attempts to abuse the draft articles in order to advance political goals. We must also work to ensure that the draft articles accurately reflect well-established principles of international law. In this context, Israel believes that several of the draft articles do not properly reflect the current state of play of customary international law, including, *inter alia*, Draft Article 6(5), which relates to the immunity of State officials; and Draft Article 6(8), which deals with measures to establish criminal, civil, or administrative liability of legal persons.

To conclude, Israel continues to support this important topic, which admirably strives to put an end to impunity for the most serious of international crimes.

Thank you, Madame Chair.