



**S L O V A K I A**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár**

**Permanent Representative  
of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations**

**76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Sixth Committee**

**Crimes against humanity  
(item 83)**

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*(check against delivery)*

Madam Chair,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor during this session, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and ensure you of our full support and cooperation. At the outset, I wish to align my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union, and add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

Slovakia has been consistent and clear in its support for the outcome of the work of the International Law Commission on the topic *Crimes against humanity* since the beginning of the Sixth Committee deliberations in 2019. We have been convinced that the set of 15 articles with commentaries, significant part of which reflect, in our view, customary international law, present a carefully drafted and solid basis for codification.

While retaining this position, we have also been listening to a number of States that have voiced concerns regarding specific articles resulting in a hesitance towards a diplomatic conference at this point. In order to address those concerns, Slovakia is prepared to work with all delegations in setting up a meaningful and predictable process allowing for dedicated substantive discussions. Such process though, serves no purpose if it simultaneously does not lead to a concrete outcome afterwards. Our recent extensive engagement with numerous delegations serves as best evidence that our commitment and openness to listen is earnest.

Madam Chair,

Allow me to use the Secretary-General's recent rhetoric on breakthrough or breakdown scenarios. We believe it is equally applicable to the Sixth Committee and we hope to choose together the right scenario. It means that, notwithstanding the continuous threat posed by COVID-19 pandemics, we do not turn our back to the victims of the most heinous crimes. In these challenging times, more than ever, they need to see a strong response from the UN. A response, which does not fall short on our common principles and values. A response that strengthens international criminal justice and the fight

against impunity. A response that sends a clear and tangible message that atrocities are no longer acceptable to the whole international community. Having this in mind, Slovakia appeals to all States to keep engaging in the ensuing negotiations and to work actively together on such a response.

To conclude, Madam Chair,

It is our understanding that there is a common agreement on the core obligation to prevent and punish crimes against humanity and on the necessity to fill a legal gap in addressing these crimes of concern to the international community as a whole under international law. This not only unifies us all, but also bounds us all to ensure that we create an appropriate legal framework. We encourage all States to put aside political or other differences and strive together for progress on this important topic. In the end, this is the only way to fulfill our mandate under Article 13 of the UN Charter.

I thank you.