

STATEMENT

BY

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

ON

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

**AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

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Madam Chair,

My Delegation commends the International Law Commission for its report on the progressive development of international law and its codification, as well as the improvement to the draft articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. Nigeria is appreciative of the relentless efforts by the UN General Assembly in addressing the agenda item.

2. Crimes against humanity threatens peaceful co-existence and security of lives and properties. If these crimes go un-checked, impunity will thrive in the absence of justice. Nigeria calls on Member States to take appropriate actions to prevent and address atrocities especially the ones committed against minorities and under-represented population across the world.

3. Crimes against humanity as codified in the founding statutes of the international criminal tribunals and international laws should be respected

and implemented accordingly. By ignoring such crimes, it means ignoring the suffering of the people. It is the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over alleged crimes categorized as crimes committed against humanity.

Madam Chair,

4. My delegation calls on Member States to consider the recommendation to elaborate the draft articles into convention. If elaborated, it will serve as a firm legal framework in the promotion of accountability at national level. Nigeria, therefore, would support an open and inclusive dialogue by all parties involved and we welcome the collective proposals emanating from various deliberations by Member States that will lead to consensus on this agenda item, while taking note of existing national and international laws.

5. In respect to Article 12, my delegation supports a comprehensive approach by States to take all necessary measures to ensure equal access to

competent authorities and for all victims, complainants, witnesses are protected against ill-treatment or intimidation. Protective measures should be without prejudice. Nigeria also joins other delegations in welcoming the promotion of Mutual Legal Assistance under Article 14, that will afford States under relevant laws and treaties access to investigations, prosecutions, judicial and other proceedings, as the case maybe.

Madam Chair,

6. Nigeria has consistently demonstrated strong political will to fulfill its international law obligations. In concluding, Nigeria would like to reiterate its unwavering commitment to her international obligations, by continuing to adhere to international laws and respect for human rights, dignity, self-determination, and promotion of equity and social justice. Effective prosecution of cases is key to strengthening the international system. To

this end, we call on Member States to come together and agree to move forward with the view of achieving a common goal.

7. I thank you madam Chair.