



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the **sixth committee**

Agenda Item 78:
"Crimes against Humanity"

New York, October 10, 2022

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Mr. Chair,

Crimes against humanity are amongst the most heinous crimes. They shock our collective conscience and contravene the basic values of humanity.

Ending impunity for such crimes must be a shared objective for all of us.

Since its inclusion in the agenda of the sixth committee, Lebanon has followed with interest this topic and our position has been reaffirmed in the past two sessions.

My delegation expressed the importance of moving towards the elaboration of a Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, on the basis of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission.

Crimes against humanity are not governed by a specialized convention, unlike war crimes and genocide. *“It appears to a key missing piece”* to quote Special Rapporteur Mr. Sean Murphy.

A global treaty on Crimes against humanity would represent a key step towards more accountability. It reinforces international criminal law, promotes cooperation and strengthens national criminal systems. To be more effective, such a treaty would need to be widely accepted.

Mr. Chair,

The important work carried out by the International Law Commission on this topic has now been concluded for three years.

Since then, we have heard a wide spectrum of views on the draft articles, the ILC recommendation and mainly on the way forward.

We understand that further exchanges of views might be necessary.

We acknowledge the need for more comments to be made, particularly on some draft articles.

We are mindful there are still legitimate concerns.

We are of the view, Mr. Chair, that addressing all of the above can be best achieved through a clear and structured framework. Having a dedicated mechanism would allow all of us to engage more substantively, in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

We have heard significant support towards setting a process in motion. A process where we can evolve in a sound and stepwise manner, without prejudging the outcome.

This is the reason Lebanon supports the draft proposal uploaded last week, and the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee. My delegation sees merits in initiating an open process of consultations that can lead to meaningful progress in the consideration of the ILC product on crimes against humanity.

Mr. Chair,

We strongly believe in the progressive development of international law and its codification, to which the sixth committee and the International Law Commission play an essential part. This legal committee must be more active in advancing these objectives.