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**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**77<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SIXTH COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM 78:  
“CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY”**

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*Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

I would first like to congratulate the Chair and the other Members of the Bureau on their appointment and assure you of our full support and cooperation towards a successful session.

Poland associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me highlight some issues in my national capacity.

Last year, our delegation raised point about the deficiency in international criminal law consisting of the lack of a convention on crimes against humanity (as opposed to those on genocide or war crimes). We emphasized that a new Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity is urgently needed.

Today, as never, these considerations are imminent. According to recent OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report, a state neighbouring Poland, that is the Russian Federation commits crimes against humanity on the territory of another neighbouring state: Ukraine. The report identifies credible evidence of patterns of violent acts which had been repeatedly documented, such as targeted killing, rape, abductions, or massive deportations of civilians, qualified as a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population.

*Mr. Chair,*

Poland would like to remind that, under customary international law, all States have the obligation to prevent, prosecute and punish crimes against humanity. For these purposes, they must take the necessary measures to ensure that these crimes constitute offences under their criminal law and that their organs have jurisdiction over such crimes.

In the present international context, the lack of progress in strengthening the international legal framework for combating crimes against humanity is not a viable option. The Sixth Committee has to uphold the purposes and ideals of the United Nations, inter alia, by reaffirming "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person". Thus, it should aim at taking concrete steps leading to the elaboration of the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity on the basis of the Draft Articles prepared by the International Law Commission.

*Mr. Chair, Distinguish Delegates,*

Poland stands ready to work with everyone in an inclusive and transparent manner towards ensuring swift and meaningful progress on this agenda item.

*I thank you.*