



SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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Crimes Against Humanity

Agenda Item 78

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Thank you Mr. Chair,

In light of the history of the Jewish people, 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.

Mr. Chair,

Since the 74th session of the General Assembly, Israel has supported establishing a forum within the framework of the Sixth Committee in which States would gather to review this matter, and engage in an inclusive and robust discussion focused on clarifying outstanding issues and resolving significant differences, with a view towards examining the potential elaboration of a future convention. Israel believes that such a forum would allow this important project to move forward in a constructive manner, and contribute to the development of international law in line with the role of the Sixth Committee. Israel would come to these discussions ready to engage actively, and to share our substantive comments and concerns regarding this matter.

Israel recalls the discussions regarding the draft articles beginning in the 74th session 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 framework. We would like to refer to our previous statements in this regard.

With these differences in mind, Israel stresses the importance of achieving progress with regard to the draft articles, and finding a path forward. Accordingly, the Government of Israel supports the proposal to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to examine the draft articles and the path forward. This position notwithstanding, Israel also considers the principle of consensus within the Sixth Committee to be a significant element for maintaining the unity and consistency of international law. Israel believes that meaningful and inclusive discussions among States should indeed take place, with a view to reaching consensus on this matter.

Mr. Chair,

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. We once again reiterate our willingness and commitment to the efforts for the development of international law and we offer our support to the Sixth Committee in its role to carry on this important task.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.