

Resumed Sixth Committee Session
Statement of Ireland
"Crimes against Humanity"
10 April 2023

1. Thank you, Chair/Madame Chairperson.
2. Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and wishes to make the following further comments.
3. Madam Chair/Chair,
4. Ireland extends its deep appreciation to the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for facilitating this resumed 6C session. We have been strong supporters of initiatives to progress consideration of the draft articles on crimes against humanity, in order to address this significant gap in the international treaty law framework.
5. Ireland, therefore, warmly welcomes this week's discussion in the resumed session format. It reflects what Ireland, and indeed the majority of MS, have been advocating for, for several years now – an opportunity and space to reflect on the draft articles and to progress the important work of the International Law Commission.
6. As Ireland has underlined before, crimes against humanity are among the most serious of all international crimes, and yet to date, the international community has failed to agree upon, and adopt, a stand-alone legal instrument criminalising these acts.

7. At such a critical time for accountability, the elaboration of an international convention would send an important message, a message that impunity for those who commit crimes against humanity will not be tolerated.
8. As we have stated at the Sixth Committee previously, Ireland strongly supports the recommendation of the International Law Commission to elaborate a convention on Crimes against Humanity. We believe that the draft articles, concluded by the Commission, provide a very strong foundation for the elaboration of such a convention.
9. The ILC draft Articles on Crimes against Humanity are complemented by the International Initiative for the development of a Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition in Domestic Prosecution of Atrocity Crimes. Ireland views both endeavours as very important.
10. As I conclude, Ireland very much looks forward to positive and substantive discussions this week and encourages all States to be flexible and open-minded in their engagement.
11. I thank you, Chair/Madame Chairperson.