



**Sixth Committee – Agenda item 80
Crimes against Humanity**

**Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany
10 October 2022**

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

As a firm supporter of international criminal law, Germany attaches great importance to a Convention on Crimes against Humanity, based on the International Law Commission's Draft Articles.

Crimes against Humanity are among the most serious crimes known to humankind. We are witnessing these atrocities too often. Germany therefore attaches great importance to the project of a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity.

Since the concept of Crimes against Humanity is well accepted, there remains an obvious gap outside the ICC framework. There is currently no global convention governing the prevention and punishment of Crimes against Humanity, unlike with respect to genocide (the 1948 Genocide Convention) and war crimes (the 1949 Geneva Conventions). We need to close this gap in order to strengthen accountability and bring such crimes to justice universally. We need to close this gap to give meaning to the principle of complementarity. A new convention would add the finishing touch to treaty law on the most serious crimes and foster inter-state cooperation with regard to their investigation, prosecution and punishment.

Germany welcomed the positive approach to the recommendations agreed within the International Law Commission, which enjoy wide support throughout the international

community. Equally, we welcome the positive engagement which dominated the resumed session of the Sixth Committee this April. We look forward to continuing discussions in the same constructive atmosphere when meeting again next April.

In March 2023, we organised a “Workshop on a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity” which was meant to be a forum of exchange in particular with civil society. The report of this Workshop, organised together with France, was issued as a document of the Sixth Committee and is available on the Committee’s website under <https://undocs.org/A/C.6/77/INF/3>. We intend to again extend an invitation for a second Workshop to take place in February 2024.

Germany remains strongly committed to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes. We aim to proceed by setting up a structured process towards treaty negotiations based on the ILC’s draft articles as we are convinced that a convention would provide further impetus to the prevention of atrocity crimes. We will proactively contribute to the work of an Ad Hoc Committee to this end.

Thank you.