



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

**THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE
SIXTH COMMITTEE**

ON THE

AGENDA ITEM 80: CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

**DURING THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 12th OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Chairman.

The delegation of Mozambique associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group (AG), on this topic.

Allow me to make some few remarks in our national capacity.

Crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The discussion of this issue reflects the collective will to prevent and punish them, as they affect the entire international community and shock the conscience of humanity.

They must be prevented in accordance with national and international law. Ending impunity on crimes against humanity should be an attainable objective.

My delegation commends the work of the International Law Commission for preparing the Draft Articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, that include the possibility of an International Convention on the matter (A/74/10).

The increasing number of interventions made by member States on the topic during the last session of the Committee, in 2022, and indeed, the decision to hold two complementary sessions of the Committee, in April 2023

and April 2024, with a view to an exchange of substantive opinions on every aspect of the Draft Articles bears testimony to the importance of the matter, not only to States as the main subjects of International Law, but to other role occupants in the international community, as a whole.

For this matter, my delegation believes that international cooperation of all the players in the international society is required if we want to make progress in the quest of prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

There seems to be consensus in that the above-mentioned Draft Articles provide a good basis for discussions and negotiations of a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity, and that the primary responsibility for preventing them lies in the hands of States.

Despite the existence of this consensus, the debate on the issue remains inconclusive, with a considerable number of States defending that the consensus has not yet been reached on many other important aspects to allow for the development of an international convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Mr. Chairman.

In the past year, Mozambique continued to update its legal framework and strengthen its institutional capacity in the criminalization of crimes against humanity.

Among other things, the legal framework, provides for:

- a) territorial jurisdiction over nationals and foreigners;
- b) extra-territorial jurisdiction over its nationals, if they have not been tried by the competent foreign jurisdiction;
- c) legal and judicial cooperation and the extradition regime, in the context of international cooperation in the fight against crimes contrary to mankind.

Finally, we wish to reiterate our appreciation for the work of the International Law Commission in promoting the development of international law and its codification.

Likewise, we wish to reiterate the commitment of Mozambique to continue its constructive engagement and collaboration in the work aimed at the approval and adoption of an international Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity on the basis of the International Law Commission Draft Articles.

I thank you!