

Statement

By

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On

Crimes Against Humanity

CLUSTER 1 (Introductory provisions: Preamble and Article1)

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Mr Chair

My delegation is delighted to be part of this important discussion on the elaboration of a convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. I wish to make the following comments in our national capacity.

2. On the onset we commend the International Law Commission for their effort on the draft article and the secretariate for providing a robust basis for our interactions today. However, I wish to raise the concern regarding the composition of the Co-facilitators which sidelined some regions, especially Africa. I hope the Sixth Committee Secretariat will provide an explanation for inclusivity and fairness.

3. Crimes Against Humanity continue to be a topic of interest to the Nigerian delegation because of the devastating impact of these crimes to its victims and to humanity at large. Such acts destroy families, shatter dreams, displaces persons; and have lasting impacts even on the survivors. Every responsible government must put in place structures to fight these crimes to the full extent permitted by international law.

4. In light of the mandate of General Assembly Resolution 77/249, I wish to caution on the secretariat and the Co-facilitators sets of guiding questions, which I believed is done in good faith, however, will further divert our discussion from the main substance.

CLUSTER 1

5. My delegation notes the importance of streamlining to have a coherent preamble to reflect the context of our discussion in line with the principles of international law. My delegation will contribute and is open to a reformulation of the preamble.

Preamble

- i. On para 1 my delegation agrees with the referencing of “people” rather than children, women and men” we should avoid specifics and be more inclusive in the preamble.
- ii. On para. 7 of the Preamble on the referencing of the definition of Crime Against Humanity in article 7 of the Rome Statute. My delegation does not agree on the referencing in the preamble because it does not reflect other elements on the definition that constitutes crime against humanity.

Draft Article 1 Scope

6. My delegation welcomes the focus of the scope on the main objectives of the future convention on prevention and punishment. Our discussions should be guided around prevention and punishment of crime against humanity.

7. As we resume this deliberation, Nigeria looks forward to a constructive and collaborative exchange of ideas and views and we are committed to work with you all to collectively rid the world of impunity to crimes against humanity and to ensure accountability.

I thank you