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STATEMENT BY
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESUMED SESSION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
“CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY”
CLUSTER 5

NEW YORK, APRIL 2024

Madam/Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Poland wishes to congratulate the ILC, the Bureau, the co-facilitators, the Secretariat as well as all the states and non-governmental organisations engaged in the preparation of the text of the Draft Articles. We do believe that our further collaboration with a view to making the Articles an effective international instrument will count as an important step towards the real protection and implementation of human rights.

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on behalf of its Member States. Now I would like to present certain issues of particular importance to the Polish Government.

Poland was one of the initiators of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We would like to continue this tradition.

Since the beginning of the ILC's work on the Draft Articles, Poland has been devoted to the child-sensitive approach in the global fight against international crimes, including the prosecution of perpetrators.

We are also convinced that the previous years' global experience confirmed that the most vulnerable groups of people are children – from all over the world, from every society, minority and especially vulnerable groups etc. In today's world the children suffer as victims, witnesses as well as persons forced to act as perpetrators of hideous international crimes. Therefore, we perceive their safety and well-being must be always taken into consideration and treated as of utmost importance during every proceedings linked with international crimes.

Due to their being not mature enough, both mentally and physically, to be able to adequately protect their rights, we believe the international community has a special obligation to support this group – future generation. We underline that the best interests of children must be a primary consideration in the process of their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration. Such recovery and reintegration should take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child. The Draft Articles – as elaborated by the ILC – are a great base for an ambitious binding international instrument, that – using internationally agreed language taken from the most widely ratified human rights instruments – would directly secure the rights of all children, regardless of their status. Their needs must be adequately and directly addressed.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

We stand ready to engage in the work towards the convention based on the Draft Articles. We are convinced that the future negotiations will provide good grounds for the constructive dialogue on the proposals and comments submitted by all the states and actors during last year as well as this year resumed session of the Committee. For our children we must create a world in which they will live safely and in peace.

I thank you.