



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States  
by Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the United  
Nations**

**at the Resumed Sixth Committee Session**

**"Crimes against humanity"**

**Agenda Item 80**

**ILC recommendation**

**4 April 2024**

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina\* and Georgia, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Throughout history, millions of children, women and men have been victims of crimes that deeply shock the conscience of humanity. Sadly, such crimes are also all too familiar in today's world. They threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. Alongside the crime of genocide and war crimes, crimes against humanity constitute the gravest crimes known to humankind.

However, while there are conventions in relation to both the crime of genocide and war crimes, there is no such convention on crimes against humanity. There is therefore a gap in the international treaty framework that must be filled.

We recall that, on 5 August 2019, the International Law Commission decided, in conformity with Article 23 of its Statute, to recommend the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity to the General Assembly. The Commission recommended the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles.

While we are open to discussion, as expressed in previous sessions, our preference would be for an international conference of plenipotentiaries. An international conference would offer the necessary space and format to elaborate a robust legally binding instrument on this important topic.

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\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We listened carefully to the concerns of other delegations and, as raised many times during the session, we identified several issues that merit an in-depth consideration. We note, however, that the great majority of views expressed general support for the work of the ILC. These rich and thoughtful debates attest to the desire and need to proceed to the negotiation of a convention. They also demonstrate that the draft articles provide a sound basis on which the elaboration of a convention may begin.

To conclude, we reiterate our support for the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles, as recommended by the ILC. We call on all delegations to work towards opening negotiations on a convention that would also enable the General Assembly to fulfill its mandate regarding the codification and progressive development of international law, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the UN Charter.

The choice for the elaboration of a Convention on crimes against humanity is not a difficult one, because humanity needs it.

I thank you.