



**United Nations General Assembly 78<sup>th</sup> Session  
Resumed Sixth Committee Session**

**Agenda Item 80: Crimes Against Humanity**

**Statement of Ireland on the Recommendation of the International Law Commission**

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*New York, 4 April 2024*

*– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –*

Chair,

1. Ireland continues to support the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the International Law Commission's draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, as recommended by the Commission.
2. As we said at the beginning of this resumed session, we strongly believe that it is now more important than ever that we reinforce our international justice system and make any necessary improvements to it, including by elaborating a convention on crimes against humanity. As Ireland and many others have said since this Committee began its consideration of the draft articles, a convention on the basis of these draft articles would close a stark gap in the international treaty law framework governing the prevention and punishment of international crimes.
3. The draft articles are the result of commendable work by the Commission and extensive interaction between the Commission and the Sixth Committee. They have received extraordinarily detailed consideration by the Sixth Committee in recent years. They were closely examined during last year's resumed session, when the majority of states was in favour of the elaboration of a convention. States then made extensive written comments on the draft articles, which were helpfully summarised into a report by the Secretary-General in advance of the present resumed session. There has been yet further detailed consideration of the draft articles during the present session.
4. This Committee has plainly, in Ireland's view, given the draft articles adequate consideration. We are now ready to proceed to the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles. By agreeing to proceed to the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles, states would not be endorsing entirely the draft articles in their current form; they would merely be agreeing to use the draft articles as a negotiating text which could be amended as much as states see fit during the negotiation process.

5. Ireland has considered with interest the comments made by states during the present resumed session, as well those made during last year's session and those made in writing. These discussions have helped us to further clarify our views on the draft articles, and have enabled us to decide that proceeding to the elaboration of a convention on the basis of them is the next logical step. Although some divergences of views remain on the precise content of the draft articles, Ireland is confident that these divergences can be resolved during negotiations on the elaboration of a convention. Ireland therefore believes that we are ready to move to that next stage.
  
6. Ireland further believes that we should proceed to that next stage as soon as possible. The horrifying level of violence suffered by civilians in conflicts since we began our consideration of these draft articles, and which we continue to see today, shows that we must advance without delay to make this essential improvement to our international justice system.
  
7. We again thank the Bureau and Secretariat for facilitating this resumed session, and all delegations for their thoughtful and constructive engagement.

Thank you.