

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

04 April 2024

Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before 78th General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Agenda Item 80: Crime Against Humanity (Recommendations):

Mr. Chair,

In our Cluster I statement, we said 75 years of building an international law edifice led us to here, 75 years too late, to try to fill the gap created by the absence of a Convention on crimes against humanity. It will remain hard to explain to future generations why it took us this long. Nevertheless, we are grateful to the work of the ILC on the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. We are also proud of the role we played leading us towards this substantive, thematic and interactive discussion, even in a resumed session format where we speak last and not in a working group format as we wished for.

These draft articles were inspired by tragedies, terrible human tragedies, human-endured tragedies. It all began with the victims; and it should all lead to the victims. To the millions of victims that have fallen to convince the world to develop the rules of international law and to the millions of victims who are still enduring their breaches.

For some these draft articles are theories, for others they are history, but for us, and millions around the world, they are daily realities; intolerable realities sustained by protracted impunity and institutionalized double standards that call into question the universality, efficacy, and relevance of the international law order and stunt its development. For the sake of our people and all peoples we refuse to be indifferent to this.

This why we welcome the recommendations of the ILC and we emphasize the importance of consensus moving forward. We support convening an international conference on the basis of the draft articles and we stand ready to negotiate with everyone in an inclusive and transparent manner towards a Convention. We want to be remembered as the generation of diplomats who chooses to see the shoreline beyond the rough waters and to serve common interests of humanity by affirming new starting points for generations to come.

The State of Palestine reiterates its unwavering commitment to the rule of law, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the principle of humanity and justice and to human rights and dignity. This commitment guides our unequivocal support to the this collective process.