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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 80 “Crimes against humanity”

**Statement delivered by Ms. Alis Lungu, Second Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations**

New York, 10 October 2024

Mister/Madam Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union and the statement delivered by Mexico on behalf of a group of states.

We welcome the resumption of the debate in the Sixth Committee on the topic of the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity and we wish to emphasize three main points:

Firstly, the main reason which led the International Law Commission (ILC) to initiate its work on the topic remains as relevant today as ever. Crimes against humanity continue to be perpetrated all around the world and no dedicated treaty fit for the purpose of preventing and punishing such crimes is in place today. This Committee has the mandate and the power to address this legal gap and a strong and objective motivation to do so.

Secondly, this Committee has had ample opportunities to debate and analyze the ILC's set of draft articles and its recommendation to elaborate a convention since the completion of the ILC's work on this topic in 2019. In addition to the annual debates and informal negotiations, the Committee has successfully concluded two resumed sessions specifically dedicated to exchanges of substantive views on all aspects of the draft articles. We now have on the table a comprehensive set of State comments and reports to lean on as well as a broad convergence from the membership to proceed to the next step.

This brings me to my third and last point. Romania firmly believes it is time to move towards the start of the negotiations to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. Romania joined over 70 UN Member States as a co-sponsor of the resolution initiated by the delegations of Gambia and Mexico. Importantly, this text creates a

structured negotiation process, it emphasizes transparency and inclusivity by taking into account the views expressed by all Governments until now and it underlines the value of consensus in decision-making, in line with the longstanding practice of this Committee.

We express our sincere hope that we can collectively enter good-faith informal negotiations on the basis of this draft resolution, guided by a shared goal of preventing impunity for crimes against humanity and we invite all delegations to support the text.

I thank you!