



Republic of Rwanda
**Permanent Mission of Rwanda
to The United Nations**

STATEMENT ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY (6C)

Delivered by Robert Kayinamura, Deputy Permanent Representative

New York, 10 October 2024

Chair,

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for a comprehensive report, which reflects the observations and comments of Member States on the draft articles regarding the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. Rwanda fully supports the work of the International Law Commission and appreciates the continued efforts to strengthen the legal framework for addressing these heinous crimes.

As a country that has experienced the devastating impact of crimes against humanity, Rwanda recognizes the urgent necessity of creating a robust international legal regime to prevent such atrocities.

We firmly believe that prevention is paramount in fighting crimes against humanity. Early warning mechanisms, cooperation among states, and the enhancement of national capacities are essential to prevent these crimes.

Rwanda supports the integration of stronger preventative measures within the framework, including the role of education and awareness in fostering a culture of peace.

Chair,

Building on the progress achieved in the Sixth Committee's resumed sessions (April 2023 and 2024), Rwanda proposes the following practical steps:

1. Based on the discussions from the Sixth Committee's resumed sessions, the draft should incorporate the substantive views exchanged, including any state concerns or suggested amendments.
2. Convene a team of legal and human rights experts to review and fine-tune the language of the draft articles, to ensure it reflects contemporary legal standards.
3. Create an intergovernmental process of drafting committee to draft the convention. The committee must ensure that inputs from developing countries, and particularly marginalized communities are integrated to make the convention universally applicable and acceptable.

4. To build consensus, regional consultations and dialogues should be held to address concerns specific to different geopolitical contexts, facilitate understanding, and secure support from various governments. This should be accompanied by Diplomatic engagements and diplomatic discussions to encourage buy-in from key states, particularly those that may have concerns about sovereignty or implementation.
5. Given the importance of the proposed convention the sixth committee should consider, setting a concrete timetable towards the finalization and adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, with a follow-up mechanism to track ratifications and implementation.

Finally Chair,

By combining legal, diplomatic, and public engagement strategies, these steps would help advance the process toward an international convention that strengthens accountability for crimes against humanity and reinforces international justice frameworks.

Thank you.