



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

**Ms Nataša Šebenik, Minister Plenipotentiary, Legal Adviser at the Permanent
Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on**

Agenda item 80: Crimes against humanity

**79th session of the General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

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Mr Chair,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on this topic and wishes to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

Crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the entire international community. So much so that the prohibition of crimes against humanity has been included in the International Law Commission's draft list of peremptory norms of general international law (*ius cogens*), which reflect and protect the fundamental values of the international community. They are recognised as norms from which no derogation is permitted.

Nevertheless, a growing number of conflicts around the world show that crimes against humanity are not a thing of the past. They are an everyday reality for many civilians in different parts of the world and a threat to everyone.

The responsibility to protect people and to establish and strengthen appropriate legal frameworks in respect of crimes against humanity lies first and foremost with states. We, the states, must act now and decide to take a step forward in the process of meaningfully addressing the topic of prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Mr Chair,

Slovenia fully supports the resolution on the convening of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the negotiation and eventual adoption of a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity based on the Draft Articles of the International Law Commission. We would like to thank Mexico and the Gambia for tabling a draft resolution, which Slovenia co-sponsored with many other states, which demonstrates remarkable cross-regional support. Slovenia welcomes the broad participation of various stakeholders in the negotiations, including the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission and other experts. Exchanges to date, particularly over the last five years, have revealed a common understanding of a number of key principles and legal issues. We recognise that there are differences of opinion on some issues and we believe that negotiations would provide an opportunity

for further constructive dialogue to advance and deepen the understanding of the positions of members of the international community, with a view to bringing divergent views closer together.

Mr Chair,

To maintain or to achieve peace and stability, it is necessary to ensure accountability of perpetrators of crimes against humanity. For this, effective international cooperation is paramount. A convention on crimes against humanity would provide an additional legal tool for national jurisdictions to facilitate the prevention and punishment of such crimes. The opening of negotiations and the conclusion of a convention would expand the possibilities and choices of states. I would also like to refer to the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention, adopted in Ljubljana on 26 May 2023, which will help strengthen national capacities and international legal cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other international crimes. The two conventions are mutually supportive and complementary, as they share the same objective of filling the gap in the international legal framework for the benefit of states and their people.

Mr Chair,

In conclusion, Slovenia would like to reaffirm its commitment to continue its constructive engagement in international cooperation and reiterate its support for the opening of negotiations on a convention on crimes against humanity.

Thank you.