

STATEMENT of TÜRKİYE
SIXTH COMMITTEE / “CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY ”
(9-10 October 2024, New York)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the International Law Commission (ILC) for its efforts on the draft articles.

Mr. Chair,

While the concept of crimes against humanity originates from international law, it does not have universally recognized rules and standards, in contrast to other international crimes. Türkiye shares and supports the views that the legal gap resulting from the lack of a global agreement to prevent and punish crimes against humanity needs to be filled.

We hold the view that the work undertaken by the Sixth Committee concerning crimes against humanity has the potential to make a vital contribution to the ongoing global fight against impunity for serious breaches of international law.

Türkiye has contributed to these efforts in various ways and will continue to do so. We would like to share our comments on the following issues with a view to assisting the Committee in determining the best way forward.

Distinguished colleagues,

A comprehensive and universal codification of "crimes against humanity" would benefit the entire international community. However, such codification should accurately reflect well-established principles of international law in order to gain widespread acceptance.

As several other member States indicated during the previous sessions, crimes against humanity can be more vulnerable to political exploitation compared to other international crimes. As such, it is important to approach the issue with careful consideration. Given the sensitivity it bears, proposed rules and mechanisms should be crafted meticulously, inclusively, and with clarity.

For the successful completion of the work on crimes against humanity, it is essential to acknowledge the legitimate concerns of all Member States.

Likewise, it is critical to avoid imposing legal definitions from other international agreements that may not have universal acceptance.

The draft articles should reflect widely accepted principles and incorporate safeguards against potential political misuse. Without these safeguards, any convention risks creating tensions between States, and may hinder rather than enhance the efforts to promote justice.

We have articulated our concerns in detail regarding the articles, both in writing and in spoken form, during previous sessions of the Committee, which remain valid.

Nevertheless, this delegation remains committed to contributing to the advancement of the work on this important subject.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye wishes to underline the importance of the consensus principle within the Sixth Committee as a fundamental element for maintaining the unity and coherence of international law. Given that Member States continue to have divergent views on various articles at this stage, we acknowledge that a consensus has not yet been reached. Thus, Türkiye maintains its belief that for establishing a global legal framework on crimes against humanity, the draft articles are a good starting point but not a complete work.

As Türkiye, we remain committed to fostering our constructive cooperation and contribution.

I thank you.