



## Seventy-ninth session of the Sixth Committee, Agenda Item 80 “Crimes Against Humanity”, 10 October 2024.

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ms Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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I thank you Chair,

At the outset, I congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election, and assure you of my delegation’s full support in fulfilling your important mandate.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Important discussions took place over the two resumed sessions of the 6th Committee, in 2023 and 2024 respectively. On those occasions, delegations exchanged substantive views on the International Law Commission’s draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity – reconfirming the urgent need to fill in a legal void. The need of a Convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity echoed cross-regionally throughout the two resumed sessions.



The discussions during the two resumed sessions served as an important consensus-building exercise, with no UN delegation disputing the historical occurrence of crimes against humanity, nor the need to prevent and punish the respective. As the distinguished co-chairs concluded in the oral report following the two resumed sessions “our fight to end crimes against humanity must unite and not divide us”.

Chair,

We have an overwhelming support for this codification desideratum, legal and historical confirmation of the existence of these crimes - which deeply shock the conscience of humanity and are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Holding future inclusive, thorough, constructive, and transparent negotiations on a Convention in the format of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, as requested by the majority of the international community and reflected in the summary of the two sessions, is how we can bridge the views of UN member states and advance the codification and progressive development of international law.



Malta is fully supportive of a Conference undertaken in an open and transparent manner, with a view to promoting universal adherence. Given our written comments to the International Law Commission on bettering the text of the draft articles and advancing a survivor-centric approach, we also look forward to engaging in productive consultations on issues of substance, prior to the convening of the Conference, to facilitate the successful conclusion of its work.

In conclusion Chair,

We hope for a diplomatic success culminating the work of the 6th Committee this session, which would take us one step closer towards preventing and punishing crimes against humanity.

I thank you.