



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

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On

Crime Against Humanity: Agenda Item 80

10 October 2024

Mr. Chair

Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. I wish to make the following statements in my national capacity.

2. Crimes Against Humanity continue to be of interest to my delegation because of the devastating impact of the crimes on their victims and humanity. Crime against humanity threatens peaceful co-existence and security of lives and properties. By ignoring such crimes, it means ignoring the suffering of the people. Nigeria condemns all forms of Crimes Against Humanity and calls for concerted efforts to hold all perpetrators accountable through a framework of an elaborate convention.

Mr. Chair,

3. My delegation participated actively at the two resumed sessions and raised some substantive observations and comments on the draft articles and the report of the ILC. We therefore wish to note that our national views, including the legitimate concerns and views expressed by many States, should be fully reflected in our discussion moving forward on the negotiations of a future convention on Crime Against Humanity. In this light my delegation wishes to reiterate the call for transparency and openness. The Commission and the Secretariat should abide by Resolution 77/247 to take any decision of a future convention.

4. Nigeria as a signatory to the Rome Statute welcomes the modeling of Article 2 of the future convention on crime against humanity after article 7 of the Rome Statute. However, we reject the

decision of the Commission to delete para 3 of the article based on written comments submitted by some group of states. This process should be devoid of selectivity and double standards. Crimes Against Humanity, as codified in the founding Statute of the International Criminal Tribunals and International laws, should be respected, and fully implemented, accordingly.

My Chair,

5. My delegation further supports the expansion of the scope of the definition of Crime Against Humanity and this is not limited to as provided in the ILC draft article, in addition to including slavery, slave trade, colonialism and the illegal exploitation of resources. We all recall the evil of slavery and slave trade and the structural and institutional consequences which continues to affect the African continent and the people of African descent, and the inhuman acts perpetuated in the history of humankind. These are not captured in either the Convention on War crimes or Genocide.

6. The African position is clear to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa. The underdevelopment of the continent can be explained by its history of over 400 years of slave raiding of strong men, women including children depriving them of their human dignity, freedom, and identity. This is indeed the highest form of crime against humanity. The legacy of slave trade, slavery, colonialism and exploitation of resources and its effects are still visible and continue to undermine efforts to bring transformation and sustainable development to the continent and its peoples.

7. More than 60% of us seated here are victims of slavery and slave trade directly or indirectly. We therefore support the call to hold the perpetrators accountable for these heinous crimes and to demand justice. The people of the African descent have not been given compensation or reparations on the heinous and inhuman acts committed on the continent and its people. This is unjustifiable in addition to the cultural values plundered during colonialism which are still generating huge revenues for the perpetrators. The demand for reparations is reasonable to address the economic deficits created by colonialism, slavery and slave trade. The future convention on crime against humanity should address and ensure the payment of reparations for the devastating impacts on the victims. My delegation proposes to include in the future convention a mechanism on timeline for payments of reparations to victims of crime against humanity including prosecution according to legal proceeding for defaulters.

8. Mr. Chair, my delegation strongly welcomes this convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime Against humanity as well as to address some of the issues raised above, including the generational impact. We will continue to collaborate with the international community with the view to ensuring that international legal frameworks for preventing and punishing such heinous crimes are always fully applied.

9. My delegation rejects any resolution or conference that attempts to distract this process. We exchanged substantive views during the two sessions therefore we should build on the gains and proceed with negotiations.

Mr. Chair

10. The world indeed needs a convention to criminalize crime against humanity and the only way we can achieve our goal to eradicate the heinous crimes including addressing the situation in Gaza is to be transparent and inclusive in the future convention.

I thank you