



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**GEORGE SHADRACK KAMANDA**

**FIRST SECRETARY**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF A CROSS-REGIONAL GROUP OF  
MEMBER STATES**

**AGENDA ITEM 80: CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY  
SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**New York,**

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kingdom of The Netherlands, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, The Gambia, The United States of America, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and my own country, Sierra Leone.

**Mr. Chair,**

2. We stand at a crossroads, facing the sobering reality that, more than 75 years after the end of World War II, many people—whether young or old, women or children—still live in conditions that fall far short of the promises made by the international community in countless UN agreements. These instruments have pledged to uphold the rights and dignity of all human beings, yet for too many, those commitments

remain unfulfilled. If we allow impunity to international crimes continue undermining justice, we risk questioning the very foundation of our shared humanity. **The time is now to act, and we must act in concert to end and prevent abhorrent acts fitting the definition of crimes against humanity.**

3. The International Community must remain steadfast and committed to finding a lasting solution to the plight of humanity by converting our collective promises to safeguarding humanity from the most serious crimes of international law through **clear, comprehensive, and inclusive legal frameworks aimed at ending impunity for crimes against humanity and ensuring accountability.**
4. The principles of law and values that guide us, and which shaped the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide must likewise guide our actions in this committee with a view to negotiating a similar stand-alone convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. As contracting parties to the Charter of the United Nations, it is a clarion call to duty, to assume our collective moral and legal obligations, not because we are privileged to be here but because we owe it to humanity.

**Mr. Chair,**

5. Reflecting on the history of humanity across all regions of the world, our collective memory, if not faded, it recalls the plight and mistreatment of some people belonging to religious and racialized groups fleeing the atrocities fitting the definition of genocide or crimes against humanity. The international community must take decisive action to end impunity for crimes against humanity, just as it has for genocide. Our collective quest for peace and security in all communities of the world will remain unattainable if we allow crimes against humanity to sow discord within those communities.

**Mr. Chair,**

6. A convention on crimes against humanity would strengthen the prevention and punishment of such heinous crimes at the national level. It would also establish obligations for States to cooperate and provide a new legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

7. In the past two years, we were delighted to see members of the Sixth Committee engaged in concluding the substantive and detailed legal dialogue on the draft articles of the International Law Commission on crimes against humanity. It was a constructive experience for the Sixth Committee as a whole to move beyond a procedural debate and we encourage this action-oriented spirit to continue in the Sixth Committee with a view to adopting a draft resolution in this session

that convenes to a United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. In as much as it is important to continue discussing and understanding our respective positions, time is of the essence, and we ask that delegations engage constructively, as progress can only be made through structured, constructive dialogue and engagement.

8. To conclude, **Mr. Chair**, we reiterate our commitment to the process agreed by the Sixth Committee. We will continue to engage constructively and invite all delegations to do the same, with the view to reaching a decision on this matter in the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 77/249.

9. I thank you.

