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# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,  
UNGA 79, AGENDA ITEM 80

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

10 October 2024

Delivered by Colin McIntyre

*As delivered*

Mr Chair,

Let me begin by thanking you, as well as the Bureau and the Secretariat for all your work which enables today's debate to take place.

Crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. However, at present, there is no general multilateral convention dedicated to the prevention and punishment of such crimes. Mr Chair, we now have the opportunity to remedy that.

The United Kingdom is of the view that the International Law Commission's draft articles provide a strong basis for elaborating a convention on this topic. We were grateful for the opportunity to set out our detailed views on those draft articles during the last resumed session earlier this year. And we were pleased that many other States from all regional groups also participated actively in those discussions. The large number of written comments was also notable and welcome.

Of course, we appreciate that there remain differing views among States on some points of substance. This is to be expected. Indeed, we agree that there are aspects of the current draft articles which would benefit from

further refinement. However, such differences should not prevent us from moving forward. In our view, points of divergence or disagreement between States on matters of substance are best addressed and resolved in the context of negotiations. We are therefore in favour of accepting the ILC's recommendation to elaborate a convention based on the draft articles.

The United Kingdom was pleased to join the cross-regional statement delivered earlier today by the distinguished delegate from Sierra Leone. The United Kingdom is also pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution submitted by our colleagues from Mexico and The Gambia. We are delighted to see the wide and broad-based support which this initiative already enjoys and we look forward to engaging to build this support still further.

Mr. Chair, in our view now is the time to move forward to negotiations to elaborate a convention on this important topic.

Thank you.