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**Statement by
H. E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva,
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations**

**on Agenda item 80: “Crimes against humanity”
10 October 2024**

79 Session of the Sixth Committee

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and with the cross-regional Statement delivered by Sierra Leone. I would like to add a few points in my national capacity.

Bulgaria has already addressed the Sixth Committee on the critical issue of elaboration of a Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity and our position is well known – we support the prompt beginning of formal negotiations on the Convention and consider the ILC Draft Articles a solid basis to proceed towards these negotiations.

Our discussions over the last 5 years and most recently during the two resumed sessions of the Sixth Committee held in April 2023 and this past April clearly demonstrated that there is a vast number of issues on which our views converge and that our differences should not prevent us from moving forward. I would like to further echo the point raised by previous speakers that having consensus on all the issues that fall under the scope of the future convention cannot be a prerequisite for starting the intergovernmental negotiating process.

While Bulgaria advocates for the start of international negotiations of a Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, we also undertake steps at national level towards ensuring justice, truth and reparation for victims by amending our Penal Code and including the crimes against humanity as offenses under the Bulgarian criminal law.

Bulgaria, along with 86 other countries has cosponsored the draft resolution, prepared by Mexico and Gambia and reiterates its strong support for the proposal to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2026 and to start the formal discussions with a view to elaborating and adopting a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, as recommended by the ILC five years ago. We call for an open, inclusive and transparent negotiation process and invite all delegations to support the draft resolution.

In conclusion, Bulgaria remains steadfast in its dedication to combating impunity for crimes against humanity and fostering a global environment in which human rights and international law are respected and upheld. We call upon all Member States to join this important endeavour and to engage in good faith in the negotiating and adoption of an international legally binding instrument based on the ILC’s draft articles.

Thank you!