

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

22 November 2024

Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the 79th Session of the General Assembly Meeting on the adoption of resolutions- crimes against humanity

Mr. Chair,

As victims ourselves, on behalf of victims, and for million victims of crimes against humanity, and with heavy hearts and unyielding resolve, we congratulate you Mr. Chair, our colleagues, the international community, and humanity, for this resolution.

The State of Palestine is a proud co-sponsor of the resolution and has, over the past years and especially past weeks, worked tirelessly, to get us to consensus and address the concerns of delegations to ensure that this endeavor is not for the sake of one nation at the expense of the other nor for the sake of one people or the other, but for the sake of all victims of crimes against humanity. The victims we have failed to save but have a duty to deliver justice to, and those we might be able to save and who expect this future Convention on crimes against humanity will provide them with a universal protection.

The State of Palestine expresses its deep appreciation to you Chair for your engagement with delegations throughout the negotiations process. We are thankful and grateful to Mexico and Gambia for their principled positions on international law and to our dear friends and colleagues Ana-Paula Lavalle and Amadou Jaiteh, and we do not forget our Legal Counsel Pablo Arrocha in capital, and their teams, for daring us to negotiate what should have been negotiated 75 years ago. We are also very grateful to all delegations who have risen to this diplomatic challenge and have fulfilled a responsibility of historical proportions to get us towards consensus, for both the sake of our international law based order and for the sake of all peoples. This resolution carries monumental moral, legal, diplomatic, and political significance for generations to come.

We are also thankful to the ILC for its draft articles and we recognize the indispensable role of the ILC.

Mr. Chair,

We often say that every evolution of international law is linked to a tragedy we failed to prevent; every Convention bears witness to inhumanity we later condemned; and every law is codified to help us identify patterns of atrocities we repeatedly overlooked.

Indeed, this resolution and the future Convention are bearing witness to inhumanity we pledged “never again” to and is bearing witness to complicity and impunity we built an entire international law order to fight and end.

But we refuse to give in to the injustice. Instead, we aspire for a world where children know of crimes against humanity as a convention codified to protect them not as a reality killing them.

This is why the future Convention should not merely be a legal exercise. But an opportunity for the international community to renew our commitment to the law and put the forces of the law at the service of the protection of humanity when it is most threatened; leaving no victim behind and no perpetrator immune.