



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the United Nations

80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Sixth Committee – Item 81: Crimes against humanity

**Statement by Ambassador Tania Romualdo,
Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Cabo Verde aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of States, and Guinea-Bissau on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), and adds the following in national capacity.

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and commitment to the universal values of human dignity, justice, and peace that we take the floor in this session dedicated to the issue of crimes against humanity.

Crimes against humanity represent one of the gravest violations of international law. They systematically and widely target civilian populations, and are a direct affront to human dignity. They affect individuals, communities and the very conscience of humanity.

These systematic and widespread acts challenge the pillars of civilized coexistence and demand a firm, coordinated, and effective response from the international community. Collective response must be resolute, coherent, and guided by principles of justice and solidarity.

The absence of a dedicated and autonomous convention on crimes against humanity—unlike those for genocide and war crimes—constitutes a legal gap that weakens mechanisms for prevention, accountability, and reparation.

Cabo Verde joins its voice to calls to address the existing legal gap through the adoption of an International Convention on Crimes Against Humanity.

We welcome the recent progress made by this Committee, the consensus adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 79/122, on December 4, 2024, to initiate formal negotiations on the creation of this much-needed international convention.

Furthermore, Cabo Verde commends the work of the International Law Commission, whose draft articles, adopted in 2019, provide a solid foundation for the development of an international convention.

The adoption of Resolution 79/122 on the convening of the Diplomatic Conference on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, in 2028/2029, is a historic step and represents a unique opportunity to consolidate a robust, universal, and effective legal instrument to hold perpetrators accountable and protect the victims.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation reaffirms its unconditional support for the ongoing negotiation process and encourages all Member States to participate in a constructive, inclusive, and transparent manner. It is essential that this future convention incorporates: i) highest standards of human rights; ii) respect for the sovereignty of States; and iii) the promotion of international cooperation in criminal matters.

We underline the importance of strengthening mechanisms for monitoring, investigating, and documenting crimes against humanity, such as the recent reports presented by independent UN commissions, which have been instrumental in exposing serious violations in various parts of the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

The fight against crimes against humanity is, above all, a fight for the preservation of our shared humanity. Cabo Verde reaffirms its total commitment to work with all members states and partners towards these noble goals. We believe that this Committee is equal to its historic mission, and that we can build a future in which justice prevails over impunity.

We are better together.

Thank you.