



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

**THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE DURING THE 80TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

ON THE

AGENDA ITEM 81: CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

*14 October 2025
United Nations
New York*

Mr. Chair

1. Mozambique associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group (AG) as well as of the Non-alignment movement on this subject. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

2. We understand that our Committee took the right and appropriate decision at the last session to convene the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries to negotiate a Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, referring the 2019 ILC draft articles and the proposals for amendments submitted by Governments to the Conference for its consideration.

3. Our position has been based on the consensual understanding at the Sixth Committee that crimes against humanity are among the most serious violations of human rights; that there is a formal gap to address states' responsibilities to prevent or punish these crimes; and that there is a collective will to prevent and punish them.

4. There is also a consensual understanding at the Sixth Committee that more than a few of the draft articles recommended by the ILC need to be further discussed, strengthened and improved. A Conference of Plenipotentiaries has that mandate, which has to be executed by us, Member States. As the ILC mentioned, codification of existing or potential customary international law was not the objective of the draft articles. Its objective was to look for provisions that would be both effective and likely acceptable to States. Moreover, the focus is on the adoption of national laws and on strengthening interstate cooperation.

5. Giving an example of the prevailing differences, the African Group has been reminding the Sixth Committee of the damaging impact of historical atrocities committed against its populations, demanding that those atrocities never be repeated, as well as for their inclusion as crimes against humanity. On the other hand, it has continued to warn against contemporary double standards and selective approaches to international justice under similar legal frameworks like the war crimes or the genocide. It's true that unequal standards discredit the system and may give rise to reservations from States about the codification of new international legal frameworks.

6. Taking into account the human dimension of the crimes against humanity, many Member States have been repeatedly advocating here that we must recover our ability to smooth out our differences regardless of our national or regional interests. Crimes against humanity are those acts committed against a civilian population as part of a widespread or systematic attack. These acts, which we all consider intolerable, should be remembered at the beginning and throughout the negotiations, and that can guide us to more objective discussions, to reach consensus and to move forward.

7. In a time of widespread conflicts and blatant disregard for international law and human rights, our populations expect that consensus can be reached fast, helping to deter the commission of more crimes.

Mr. Chair,

8. Mozambique continues to update its legal framework and strengthen its institutional capacity in the criminalisation of crimes against humanity. The national scope of these crimes will certainly benefit from the negotiation and conclusion of an international Convention. Also, our legal framework provides for:

- a) Territorial jurisdiction over national and foreign criminals;
- b) Extraterritorial jurisdiction over national criminals, if they have not been tried by the competent foreign jurisdiction; and
- c) Reciprocal legal and judicial cooperation, including extradition, in prosecuting and punishing crimes against humanity.

9. With the Preparatory Committee for the Conference scheduled to meet soon, in January 2026, Mozambique will continue its constructive engagement and collaboration in the work aimed at the adoption of an international Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. While it will not stop them from taking place, codifying these crimes can strengthen protections for potential victims, and that should be our collective signal to them.

I Thank you!