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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. DR. CHOLA MILAMBO
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM : 81

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

DURING THE

**EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York
14th October, 2025

Mr. President,

Zambia is honoured to take the floor on this important agenda item concerning the prevention and punishment of Crimes against Humanity. We extend our appreciation to you for your able leadership of the Committee, and we commend the Secretariat and all delegations for their continued engagement on this matter of profound international significance.

This statement is delivered in Zambia's national capacity, and we fully endorse the position expressed by the distinguished representative of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.

The Republic of Zambia approaches this discussion with a deep sense of historical responsibility and legal conviction. As a nation committed to the principles of international law, justice, and accountability, Zambia views the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity not as a procedural exercise, but as a moral and legal imperative. We believe that the international community cannot afford to maintain a gap in the legal architecture concerning one of the most serious categories of international crimes.

Zambia reiterates its strong support for the progressive development and codification of international law, particularly in the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. We recognize that crimes against humanity represent some of the most serious violations of international law, and that their widespread and systematic nature demands a comprehensive and collective legal response. We therefore welcome the continued work of the Sixth Committee on this important agenda item.

Zambia acknowledges the valuable contribution of the International Law Commission in developing the draft Articles on Crimes Against Humanity and appreciates the consultative and inclusive approach that has characterized the ongoing discussions. The work of the ILC provides a sound legal foundation upon which the international

community can build a dedicated treaty addressing these heinous crimes.

Mr. President

It is regrettable that, unlike genocide and war crimes, crimes against humanity are not yet governed by a universal treaty. This legal gap undermines global efforts to prevent and punish such crimes and weakens our collective resolve to uphold the rule of law and human dignity. Zambia therefore welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/122, which paves the way for the convening of a United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries to elaborate a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

We believe that such a convention will significantly strengthen the international legal framework and provide a clearer basis for cooperation among States in areas such as mutual legal assistance, extradition, capacity-building, and victim protection. Importantly, it will reinforce the obligations of States to investigate and prosecute such crimes at the national level, in accordance with the principle of complementarity.

Zambia emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the future convention reflects not only the highest standards of international law but also the realities and capacities of all Member States, including developing countries. In this regard, we stress the need for clarity in the definition of crimes against humanity and other key provisions, as well as strong safeguards to uphold the principles of national sovereignty, due process, and non-interference.

Mr. President,

Zambia supports the inclusive and transparent preparatory process set out in resolution 79/122 and welcomes the establishment of the Preparatory Committee that will meet in 2026 and 2027. We

encourage the participation of legal experts from all regions, and we underscore the importance of a treaty that enjoys broad and universal support.

In closing, Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the fight against impunity and to the strengthening of international cooperation for justice and accountability. We look forward to engaging constructively with all Member States in the development of a fair, effective, and universally acceptable convention on crimes against humanity.

I thank you.