



Statement on behalf of the European Union

by

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at the Sixth Committee

on the agenda item 79

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Seventy First Session
(Cluster 1)

on the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity,
as adopted on 2nd reading by the International Law Commission at its 71st session
and, in particular, on the ILC decision to recommend the elaboration of
a Convention on the basis of these draft articles

United Nations

New York

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— CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY —

I speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

"Mr/Mrs Chair, let me first start by thanking the International Law Commission and in particular the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Sean D. Murphy, for their continuous and tireless efforts in the preparation of the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, and by congratulating the ILC for the adoption on second reading of a full set of 15 draft articles.

The present statement reflects the longstanding commitment of the European Union, as well as of its Member States, in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. As the ILC recalled at the start of its work, there is no global convention dedicated to preventing and punishing crimes against humanity and promoting inter-State cooperation in that regard. In that context, the EU sees the elaboration of a Convention as a major step to strengthen the international criminal justice system, to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and to contribute to their prevention.

The EU therefore strongly supports the elaboration of a Convention on the basis of the draft articles, as recommended by the ILC, preferably, by an international conference of plenipotentiaries."