



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the

Sixth Committee

Item 81: "Crimes against Humanity"

New York, October 15, 2020

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chair,

Five years after commencing its work on the topic 'crimes against humanity', the International Law Commission adopted, last year, the draft articles and commentaries thereto *on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity*.

We express in this regard our gratitude to the Commission and of course to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Sean Murphy.

My delegation believes that the conclusion of the ILC work on this topic is an important step towards the development of international law; particularly, international criminal law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

It is now up to us, members of the General Assembly, to take ownership of the final product of the Commission and move the discussion forward.

Mr. Chair,

Lebanon remains strongly attached to achieving justice for the most heinous crimes, strengthening accountability and ending impunity; and my delegation sees strong merits in having a 'specialized' Convention on crimes against humanity. The elaboration of an international legally binding instrument would contribute to closing a normative gap, as well as reinforce national mechanisms.

This is why we support moving towards a Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, on the basis of the draft articles.

And as reflected in the recommendation of the ILC, it could either be done by the General Assembly or a conference of plenipotentiaries, although we have a preference for the latter.

The ultimate objective must be a universally accepted Convention, as is the case for the other two high crimes under international law: the Convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of Genocide, and war crimes codified in the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. Chair,

We are mindful that certain elements require further attention, with some draft articles that could be improved, and we are also aware there are still legitimate concerns which have not been addressed.

Whatever the format, we support a way forward which would ensure a meaningful and results-oriented process; with substantive discussion and negotiations; and which progresses in a sound as well as stepwise manner, preferably with a defined timetable.