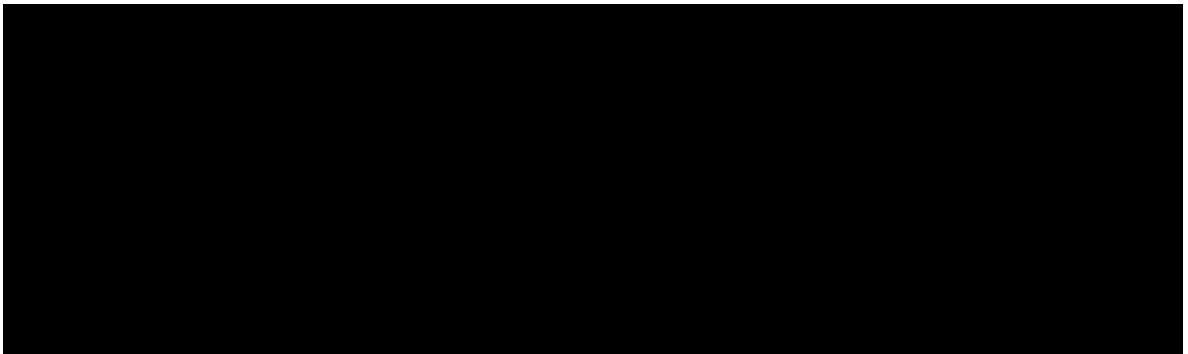




Madam Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on the agenda item on Crimes Against Humanity, and would like to convey a few additional remarks in its





At the present session, and although recognizing that some pandemic-related challenges remain, we strongly believe that the Sixth Committee must fulfil its role and seek to make substantive progress on this agenda item.

Portugal is aware of the differing opinions on the timing and shape of a discussion that could lead towards the elaboration of a convention on the basis of Draft Articles. We are also mindful of the different views expressed on the maturity of the reflection on the Draft Articles in the Sixth Committee, and on the need for more time to iron out divergences.

Those differences must not trap the Sixth Committee in a sterile repetition of arguments leading to a cycle of consideration and postponement of the Draft Articles without concrete action. This Committee cannot remain paralysed. Like it did many times in the past, the Sixth Committee must be willing and able to work through the different views held by its Member States.

In fact, those differences and those arguments should be the very reason for delegations to accept coming together and establishing a structured process, with a clear timeframe and within a concrete framework, to guide the Sixth Committee in a meaningful, forward-looking discussion on this agenda item.

Madam Chair,

In line with statements in previous sessions, my delegation would also like to recall the Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative.



The existence of the two projects should not be used as an excuse not to advance any of them.

Portugal remains convinced that the projects can be developed and implemented