



## **Statement on behalf of the African Group**

### **“Crimes against humanity”**

**Agenda item 78**

**10 October 2022**

**Mr. Chair**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of my fellow African States.

First of all, we would like to commend the International Law Commission members for their important work in implementing the mandate of the progressive development of international law and its codification.

**M. Chair**

In its resolution A/RES/74/187 of December 18, 2019, the General Assembly, in appreciation to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law, took note of articles on crimes against humanity and, during its 75th session, considered as an item entitled “Crimes against humanity” for the consideration of the Commission’s recommendations.

During the 75<sup>th</sup> and the 76<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Commission decided to examine the recommendation of the Commission to continue considering the collective will to prevent, punish and deter the most serious crimes that affect the entire international community, the conscience of humanity and that do not respect or disregard human rights.

In this context, the African Group will continue to consider the way forward on this important item.

**Mr. Chair**

The African Group attaches paramount importance to the fight against impunity for all crimes, particularly the most serious ones, and it has wisdom in principle to open discussions aimed at achieving the necessary consensus towards putting in place

an effective international legal framework to deal with international crimes.

In this regard, it remains clear for law Group that we must press forward with our efforts against the scourge of international crimes, anchored on our ability, as an international community united by the common will to live together, to act collectively and will require continued and genuine its responsibility to maintain the stability and progress of our society, cultural specificities and geographical realities.

In this respect, while the draft articles adopted on second reading by the International Law Commission may constitute a basis for our continued efforts on the subject, the legitimate concerns expressed by many delegations during the general debate on the ILC report during the 74<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> sessions. Moreover, our future discussions on the subject should not, in any way, attempt to impose the views of any party or legal theories or definitions derived from some international agreements that do not enjoy universal acceptance.

Similarly, the African Group shares the view that, to effectively combat impunity, an efficient legal framework must be established and effective cooperation needed, along with the necessary technical assistance to develop countries in the fields of investigations and prosecutions. In this context, international cooperation assistance to develop countries is a key element that must be given priority.

This can only be achieved by engaging in an inclusive, open and transparent dialogue using all the time necessary for the preparation and adoption of these draft articles.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**