

STATEMENT

**AGENDA 78
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY**

Sixth Committee, 77th

The Philippines subscribes that the prohibition of crimes against humanity is a peremptory norm of international law. For over a decade, the Philippines has had Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity. The Act echoes the substantive provisions of the draft articles.

It declares the State policy that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and their effective the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible

The Act confers original and exclusive jurisdiction on Philippine regional trial courts over crimes against humanity, punishes persecution against individual, group or collectivity based on their sexual orientation, and provides for command responsibility

Mechanisms that safeguard human rights and protect against the grave crimes sought to be addressed by the draft articles are already in place in Philippine jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair, as much as we support the objectives of the draft articles, the question of the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles needs further deliberation both by Member States on a national level, and by this Committee.

The Philippines have stressed that the Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. Without the required consensus, it cannot ~~cannot~~ ~~ft2769~~ ~~(1F3~~ ~~0 1 3~~ ~~ate td~~