

Statement of Portugal

at the 77th Session of Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

Agenda Item 78

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by stating that my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on the agenda item on Crimes Against Humanity. We would like to convey a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Portugal has already made its position on this topic quite clear in the past. It remains unchanged.

We maintain our belief that it is possible and imperative for States to follow the recommendation of the International Law Commission and convene a diplomatic conference to negotiate and adopt a convention on the basis of the Draft Articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. Such an international legally binding instrument would be one more step in the common goal of the international law community to make sure that crimes against humanity do not go unpunished.

Mr Chairman,

Regretfully, the Sixth Committee continues failing to effectively progress on this matter. It is our hope that, at this session, this changes and the Sixth Committee is able to make substantive progress.

As we have underlined in previous years, we are conscious of the diverging opinions when it comes to the timing and format of the discussion that could lead to a convention concluded on the basis of the Draft Articles adopted by the Commission. We also respect the many existing views when it comes to the matu

