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On the other hand, we strongly believe that the elaboration of any convention on this subject must focus squarely on codifying existing customary law and promoting international cooperation. Adding or modifying the already agreed definition of the crimes, before State practice and [redacted] have fully developed, would not be conducive to a broad consensus. In that context, my Delegation regrets the ILC's decision not to include in the draft articles the definition of "gender" contained in paragraph 3 of article 7 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which forms an integral part of the definition of the crimes agreed during the 1998 Rome Conference. As we have noted before, the sources mentioned in paragraphs 41 and 42 of the ILC's commentary on the definition of the crimes do not constitute State practice nor provide any evidence of States'

Mr. Chair,

The proposed convention should also ensure that efforts to prevent and punish crimes against humanity respect State sovereignty and avoid interference in States' domestic affairs. Any new convention should therefore follow the well-honed precedents of other crime-prevention treaties, building upon the principle of [redacted] and setting out the duty of States Parties to prosecute crimes against humanity within their borders and to cooperate with each other in this task, which may require, when appropriate, the extradition of wrongdoers, as well as to provide assistance to victims. The convention should include safeguards against the abuse of the law to ensure it is not abused for political goals.

The United Nations was born with and from the idea that the primary responsibility of States is to protect their populations, but when they fail or are incapable, it is the international community's responsibility to protect populations exposed to atrocity crimes such as crimes against humanity. Member States have the common responsibility to protect populations from these atrocities, and a convention, adopted by consensus, would advance that worthy goal.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.