

## DRAFT STATEMENT

### 6<sup>th</sup> COMMITTEE RESUMED SESSION OF THE 78<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 01<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024

Mr. Chair

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chair, in its resolution 77/249 of December 30, 2022, the General Assembly not only took note of the draft articles on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, it also decided that the Sixth Committee would resume its session in April 2023 and 2024, in order to exchange substantive views, including in an interactive format on all aspects of the draft articles, and to consider further the recommendation of the Commission.

This is a clear manifestation of our collective will to prevent and punish crimes against humanity, which are amongst the most serious crimes that affect the international community, deeply shock the conscience of humanity and endanger the cohesion of society.

The African Group welcomes the convening of the resumed session for the exchange of substantive views aimed at achieving the necessary consensus towards a decision on the matter. This is without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action.

Mr. Chair,

While the draft articles adopted on second reading by the ILC may constitute a potential basis for our consideration on the subject, the legitimate concerns raised by many States during the 78th session of the General Assembly held in October, 2023 should be given due consideration. The African group wishes to restate that the ongoing discussion should accommodate the cultural specificities and geographical realities of member States and their legitimate concerns.

The African Group ready to constructively engage, in meaningful and substantive discussions, with the focus on building consensus.

The African Group Member States is available to engage in meaningful and substantive discussions with the focus on building consensus. The African Group reiterates its concerns about ILC's attempt/decision to review some provisions borrowed from other internationally binding instruments in a manner inconsistent with their initial intention.

Further, the African Group recalls the negative impacts of the historical, past tragedies of the slave trade, slavery and exploitation including on the African continent as one of the highest forms of crimes against mankind. We continue to note the vestiges and consequences of, for instance the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which continue to affect the continent and people of African descent. It is in this context that we call for the inclusion of slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity.

Similarly, the fundamental legal concepts of historical importance to African Member States, such as the principle of territorial integrity, sovereign equality, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states enshrined in the UN Charter should be explicitly mentioned in the draft articles, given the horizontal nature of the articles and we also

