



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

STATEMENT BY MR. SINA ALAVI

LEGAL ADVISER, PERMANENT MISSION OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein strongly supports strengthening international cooperation in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes, which of course includes crimes against humanity. The project undertaken and completed at the ILC-stage has the potential to further elevate the importance of this set of horrific crimes. Working towards a future convention on crimes against humanity is therefore essential to ensure justice for the victims of these atrocity crimes.

Madam Chair,

We once again applaud the ILC for the seriousness and professionalism with which it dedicated itself to the draft articles on crimes against humanity. We also welcome the fact that it used the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as its basis – the only right thing to do, in light of the fact that the crimes against humanity provisions in the Rome Statute were the result of painstaking and *universal* intergovernmental negotiations both before and during the Rome Conference. The Rome Statute has of course not been universally ratified and some States are reluctant to embrace the concept of international criminal justice as such. But this is exactly

why a convention on crimes against humanity is important, it would give States not ready to join the Rome Statute the option of joining a standalone treaty instead.

Madam Chair,

Once we have the opportunity to engage in a more in-depth discussion of the draft articles, we will offer our detailed thinking. We were encouraged to see language in the draft articles concerning international cooperation, including with international accountability mechanisms. Such Mechanism, such as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar are integral to the modern international criminal justice system. Liechtenstein also supports other initiatives focused on international cooperation to this effect, such as the Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative with regard to the prosecution of the most serious crimes of international concern, which we have co-sponsored. We view the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity as complementary and non-competing with efforts to formalize inter-state cooperation for the national prosecution of the most serious crimes of international concern through the adoption of a mutual legal assistance treaty. It is, however, important to ensure the best timing and sequencing of the next stages for these two projects, in order to ensure synergies and parallel development in the best way possible.

There is currently no standalone international convention dedicated to preventing and punishing crimes against humanity – while there are relevant treaties for the other so-called core crimes. Liechtenstein therefore supports – as an ultimate goal – the elaboration of a crimes against humanity convention. We are ready to engage in a negotiating process taking in the concerns of other delegations at the earliest possible moment and in a suitable format. There are established formats and precedents which can be resorted to in order to advance this work. We are of the opinion that it is time to take a concrete step forward – specifically the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee with a clear mandate and timeline that allows for open and inclusive discussions among delegations. Engaging in this important discussion is an

expression of our commitment to the work of the ILC and the Sixth Committee as well as to our belief in the necessity of a robust rules-based international order.

I thank you.