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**Statement by Ms. Oksana Zolotarova, Acting Director-General of the
Directorate General for International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Ukraine on the Agenda item 79 Report of the International Law Commission
on the work of its Seventy First session**

(October 31, 2019)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset let me thank the International Law Commission for its fruitful work to

develop and codify the international law as well as express gratitude to the Office of
Legal Affairs for its assistance to the ILC.

I would like to comment on two topics of the ILC report, in particular on draft
articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity and

Mr. Chair,

My delegation also welcomes the adoption on first reading this July of the Commission's draft principles on the Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the former and current Special Rapporteurs Dr. Jacobsson and Dr. Lehto for their tireless efforts to complete this important study.

As we have noted in our previous statements, this topic is of enormous relevance to Ukraine. The ongoing foreign military aggression against Ukraine has already caused significant environmental damage that has affected civilian health and

environmental emergency but also lasting pollution to the environment.

Our support for enhanced protection for the environment in relation to armed conflicts has been clear from the resolutions we have sponsored and co-sponsored at the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second and third sessions. Both

responsibility of members of non-state armed groups for environmental damage in relation to armed conflicts, prior to the second reading of the draft principles.

On draft principle 18 on the Prohibition of pillage, we believe that this should cover