



Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro , Albania , Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Crimes against humanity are one of the core international crimes. Although crimes against humanity are not regulated by a dedicated convention, unlike the crimes of genocide and war crimes, they are inflict less harm or pain on civilian population at risk.

The lack of a convention on crimes against humanity is a significant gap in international treaty law. This is a gap that the international community must fill without delay.

Last year, the Sixth Committee had a substantive debate on this topic. Some delegations expressed concerns regarding the ILC draft articles. Some others wanted to study the issue further. Very few spoke against. However, the large



If not now, when is the right time to have such conversation? A conversation about better equipping our national jurisdictions to prevent horrendous crimes from happening. When is there a better time to start discussing more effective cooperation to deliver accountability for victims of crimes against humanity?

The work of this committee has stagnated for too many years. We also have a responsibility to advance our work. What is at stake is the credibility of the Sixth Committee and the role of the General Assembly in the codification and progressive development of international law, as mandated by the UN Charter. But above all, what is at stake is our shared humanity and our goal of protecting the most vulnerable.

An Ad Hoc Committee is not an end in and of itself. Rather, it serves the purpose of ensuring progress on this subject. It is therefore

We stand ready to work with everyone in an inclusive and transparent manner towards ensuring meaningful progress on this agenda item.

I thank you.