

YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2022  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

LEGAL ADVISER, PERMANENT MISSION OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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. There is currently no standalone international treaty dedicated to preventing and punishing crimes against humanity while there are relevant treaties for the other core international crimes: genocide, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Liechtenstein therefore supports work on the elaboration of a crimes against humanity convention. Now, after years of delay, we think it is time for the Sixth Committee to take concrete steps to that end.

We thank the cross-regional group that put forward the draft Crime Against Humanity proposal this year. Liechtenstein is certainly ready to engage in a transparent and inclusive negotiating process taking in the concerns of other delegations at the earliest possible moment and in a suitable format. There are established arrangements and precedents which can be resorted to in order to advance our work on the draft articles. We support moving forward by establishing an Ad Hoc Committee with a clear mandate and timeline that allows for dedicated discussions

between all delegations. Engaging in this important dialogue is an expression of our collective commitment to the work of the Sixth Committee, the ILC and the fight against impunity.

We hope to soon have the opportunity to engage in a more in-depth discussion on the draft articles, where we will be ready to offer our detailed thinking on their substance which reflect existing international law. We can already express our encouragement to see language in the draft articles concerning international cooperation to combat impunity for the most serious crimes. Liechtenstein also supports other initiatives focused on international cooperation to this effect, such as the Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative. We view the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity as complementary and non-competing with efforts to formalize interstate cooperation through a Mutual Legal Assistance treaty.

I thank you.