

# **SLOVENIA**

Thank you Mr./Madam Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union on this agenda item, and would like to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr./Madam Chairman,

Allow me first to reflect on the outcome of last year's animated discussions regarding this issue, which was a great disappointment to all of us and thank again the International Law Commission and the special rapporteur, Mr Sean Murphy, for their efforts invested in preparing the draft articles on Crimes against Humanity.

Crimes against Humanity are not something the world can or should live with. The voices of people, community and experts, however, are something we must heed. And they are telling us to act, not just react. Therefore, we must continue to work towards a clear way forward.

The Republic of Slovenia voices once more, and will continue to do so as often as necessary, its support for a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries. True, the way ahead of us is long, and work should be undertaken as soon as possible, but there are no excuses left: we must pursue global efforts to strengthen the legal framework for prosecuting perpetrators of one of the most serious international crimes without any further delay.

As underlined by almost all delegations in the plenary debate on this topic so far, there is indeed a gap in the current international treaty framework on the prevention and criminalisation of such crimes. The international community must not hesitate in addressing this gap.

It is truly incomprehensible that consensus was being used to prevent the opening of a dialogue, which was meant to further the understanding of the Member States' positions and iron out differences. However, my delegation believes that we must find a way forward together.

We hope that this year's debate will bring new window of opportunity not only to discuss this matter, but also to make progress, which will be to the benefit of us all.

Mr./Madam Chairman,

My delegation would also like to invite all States to participate at the MLA diplomatic conference, which will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in May 2023 with an aim to enhance States' cooperation in the fight to end impunity for core crimes by putting into practice the principle of complementarity.

Mr./Madam Chairman,

Let us all take this step together to end impunity for core crimes committed around the globe. Some issues are simply too important not to do everything in our power to address and resolve and Crimes against Humanity is one of them.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chairman.