

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to align my statement with the one delivered by the European Union, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Let me begin by joining other colleagues in celebrating the life and the legacy of Ben Ferencz, and add that starting this discussion, today, with a view to one day being able to negotiate and adopt a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity is certainly the best possible way of honoring his memory.

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of views with all delegations on the draft articles; and my delegation is looking at this exercise as one that will inform and support a future decision to act upon the ILC recommendation and move towards the negotiation of Convention, on the basis of the draft articles. And I must add we are extremely thankful to all those colleagues that worked tirelessly during the 6C session in the Fall to adopt the resolution that created this space, and my delegation wishes to make the most of this opportunity to have a substantive debate on what we feel is a crucial subject that fully deserves our attention - and , Z R X O G E H U H P L V V L I , G L G Q ¶ W U ' a " è ñ D G 2 (P ~ à y . ç A u S 5 Z D Q W W

on the draft articles, we want to help clarifying and addressing any concerns that might exist, and we want to identify possible avenues to make progress in our discussion in accordance with the roadmap we set out in Resolution 77/249. , Q R W K H U Z R U G V Z H ¶ U H K H U H W R S H A K E D H O W E R E A D T H E D R A F T A R T I C L E S , B U T U H K H U P R V W L P S R U W D Q W O \ Z H ¶ U H K H U H W R O L V W H Q D Q G Z H ¶ U H K H U H basis of this draft and with a view to making progress.

On the importance of this topic and of a Convention, we d R Q ¶ W K D Y H D Q \ V X E \ S M D Q W L Y addition to what the EU said and to what I mentioned earlier. We believe such a Convention is necessary and urgent to fill an important gap in international law and in the fight against the most serious crimes of international concern.

