

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Chair,

Let me start by saying that we have had open and fruitful exchanges on the draft articles; and my delegation is hopeful that we can build on the work done so far and continue to further the understanding of this matter, with a view to leaving us better prepared for the important decision that we will have to reach in the Fall this year. Portugal, since the beginning, is looking at this exercise as one that, together with the written comments, is useful to inform and support a future decision to act upon the ILC recommendation and initiate a process towards the negotiation of Convention, on the basis of the draft articles.

We can work together on the basis of this draft and with a view to making progress at the 79 session of the 6C.

A number of States (former and current + and in particular our co-facilitators) and also the colleagues from the Secretariat for preparing this session and creating the space for this discussion in our exchanges.

There is much to add to what the EU said and to what my country has mentioned many times over the past few years. We believe a Convention on CaH is necessary and urgent to fill an important gap in international law and in the fight against the most serious crimes of international concern, empowering states to further advance accountability and justice for these crimes.

