

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item 80: Crimes Against Humanity
Sixth Committee
79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
9/10 October 2024, Trusteeship Council
UN Headquarters New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Our collective commitment against atrocity crimes is a bulwark against practices and injustices that have, time and again, disfigured history.

The Philippines, as matter of state policy, adheres to the view that “the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national level, in order to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes and thus contribute to the prevention of such crimes, it being the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for international crimes.”

When the draft articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity was first introduced into the agenda of the Sixth Committee, we joined delegations in commending the International Law Commission (ILC), recognizing the Draft Articles as ‘an important contribution to the international community’s collective efforts to deter and curtail atrocity crimes.’

At the resumed sessions, we intervened on the basis of the provisions of ‘Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity’. We stressed that if the draft articles were to become the basis of a legally binding Convention, then we would have complied with the fundamental obligation that each state shall ensure that crimes against humanity constitute offences under its criminal law. The law has considerable convergence with the Draft Articles.

In addition, the law has elements that could inform this aspiration for progressive development of international law and its codification. We have highlighted the protection of victims and witnesses, and in particular, principles relating to reparations of victims, including restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation.

Mr. Chair,

In the past, within this Committee, and like other Member States, we have expressed concerns on state sovereignty, overbroad assertions of jurisdiction, politicization of human rights, as captured in