



Sixth Committee , 40th Plenary Meeting

3Crimes Against Humanity 4

Cluster I ±Introductory Provisions

Statement delivered by Canada

As the only atrocity crime without a dedicated convention, we certainly hope that the work that will be carried out this week will contribute to efforts to close this gap in the international accountability framework, and bring perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice.

Madame Chair,

While we recognize the value of basing many provisions on existing language in other treaties, we also welcome the opportunity to explore language in the draft convention that is inclusive, and encompasses a gender perspective more broadly, in addition to ensuring enhanced prevention and accountability measures for sexual and gender-based crimes.

Turning to the preamble, Canada is of the view that the draft establishes well the context within which we are examining the current draft convention.

With respect to Preambular Paragraph 1, we believe it could be warranted to strengthen the provision to emphasize more acutely the seriousness of the atrocity crimes that continue to be perpetrated around the globe to this day. We would also recommend noting that these crimes continue at present.

In terms of the debate we have been having with respect to the reference to jus cogens in Preambular Paragraph 4, we would note that this

obligation to prevent atrocity crimes includes a duty not to commit those crimes, which is incorporated in Article 3(1) of this draft, we believe that a mention of this decision in the Preamble could be appropriate.

With respect to Article 1, and questions raised yesterday, we view the scope as appropriate, as the object and purpose of the convention would be to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. The remainder of the articles will deal with how we accomplish that goal, such as by investigation, prosecution, and prohibition.

Thank you, Madame Chair.