



Sixth

Unit

State

'Crimes'

Delinquency

Legal

New York

City

1. Chair,

2. Ireland is a strong proponent for the establishment of a commission on the basis of the International Law Commission's draft articles on crimes against humanity, in accordance with the Commission's recommendations. We have seen Ireland's previous statements to this Committee that we see this as the best way to close what is a significant gap in the international treaty law system.

3. We acknowledge that many States were reluctant to take a decision in our last year's resolution and to sign the instrument. These sessions and all those States that requested more time for consideration of the draft articles, while nonetheless endorsing the work of the Commission, to move forward.

4. We welcomed the opportunity in April to have a substantive discussion on the draft articles. We thank the Commission for its work in preparing the draft articles, and all delegations for their constructive engagement. We are pleased to agree on every issue. We are pleased to see that all States that have signed are in favour of the elaboration of a convention.

5. The fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes against humanity is more important than ever. We are pleased to see the debate, which has been a long time in the making, is now a reality. This is the fifth time that Sixth Committee in this format has discussed the draft articles concluded by the ILC. While we always welcome discussion, we have seen a real action.

6. We were particularly pleased to see the adoption of the draft articles in May of this year, which will enable the Commission to start its work on the investigation and prosecution of the most serious international crimes.

said that this Convention is complementary to national criminal justice systems and that both have the potential to contribute to the fight against impunity. The adoption of the Rome Statute demonstrates that progress can and will be made in achieving accountability for international crimes.

7. We took forward to submitting written comments on the draft articles by the end of this year. We also look forward to the hope that the issues on which the draft articles were agreed will be finalized.
8. The purpose of the Rome Statute is to contribute to international peace and security. Our aim is to prevent the commission of these crimes, as well as to ensure that those who are punished. Our progress, or our stasis, sends a strong signal to those who think that they can commit crimes with impunity. We must work together, including at the level of national justice systems, to ensure that those who commit crimes against humanity will face justice.
9. Thank you.