

not contain an explicit reference to the former aim. It would therefore be desirable to include in the preamble a reference to the imperative of prevention, thus recognizing the perspective of those at risk of becoming victims of crimes against humanity.

Mr. Chair,

The intertwined moral imperatives of respect for human dignity and the promotion of the common good lead to the conclusion that sovereign interests can never justify crimes against humanity. In this regard, the Holy See welcomes the reference to **ius cogens** in fourth preambular paragraph of the Draft Articles.

Since the prohibition of crimes against humanity is a peremptory norm, the definition of th