Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Dionísio Babo
Soares, Permanent 2.s1 -i
78
th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Resumed session on Crimes against Humanity
(Agenda item 80)
Mister Chair,

We are a community of countries that, in its diversity, not only
share a common language and a strong attachment to
multilingualism, but also a common history, common cultural
traits and common values.

We uphold a world order based on the rule of international law.
We have a firm commitment to the UN Charter and its general
prohibition on the threat or use of force against the territorial
integrity or political independence of any state, its
acknowledgment of the sovereign equality between states and its
repudiation of interference in internal affairs.

We are adamant about the need to comply with international
human rights law, to international humanitarian law and to
international refugee law. This includes our unwavering support
to the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

We are also united in the belief that there is a gap in international
law that the international community has the urgent task to fill.
Unlike war crimes and genocide, there is no international
convention allowing us to hold accountable in our domestic
courts the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and to
cooperate to this end. This worrying situation is compounded by
the fact that a considerable number of countries do not have
national legislation criminalizing such serious crimes of
international law.

In the past, the international community was able to display
concord and achieve universal instruments such as the Genocide
and the Geneva Conventions. Today we witness a concerning
trend of disregard for international law and the need to protect
civilians in conflict settings.