

Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group. I wish to make the following statements in my national capacity.

2. Crimes Against Humanity continue to be of interest to my

decision of the Commission to delete para 3 of the article based on written comments submitted by some group of states. This process should be devoid of selectivity and double standards. Crimes Against Humanity, as codified in the founding Statute of the International Criminal Tribunals and International laws, should be respected, and fully implemented, accordingly.

- 5. My delegation further supports the expansion of the scope of the definition of Crime Against Humanity and this is not limited to as provided in the ILC draft article, in addition to including slavery, slave trade, colonialism and the illegal exploitation of resources. We all recall the evil of slavery and slave trade and the structural and institutional consequences which continues to affect the African continent and the people of African descent, and the inhuman acts perpetuated in the history of humankind. These are not captured in either the Convention on War crimes or Genocide.
 - 6. The African position is clear to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa. The underdevelopment of the continent can be explained by its history of over 400 years of slave raiding of strong men, women including children depriving them of their human dignity, freedom, and identity. This is indeed the highest form of crime against humanity. The legacy of slave trade, slavery, colonialism and exploitation of resources and its effects are still visible and continue to undermine efforts to bring transformation and sustainable development to the continent and its peoples.

7. More than 60% of us seated here are victims of slavery an 10. The world indeed needs a convention to criminalize crime against humanity and the only way we can achieve our goal to eradicate the heinous crimes including addressing the situation in Gaza is to be transparent and inclusive in the future convention.

I thank you