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Chair,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor during a meeting of the plenary of this Committee, my delegation congratulates you and the rest of your Bureau on your elections to your roles. We pledge to support your important work on behalf of the Committee.

Chair,

The Sixth Committee is to be commended for taking major strides to advance discussions on the draft articles on prevention and punishment of

It is imperative that the international community finally fills the glaring gap in international law pertaining to atrocity crimes. Genocide and war crimes are already subject to robust treaty law. Crimes against humanity present similar offenses to international law and international good governance, and in some senses the most prevalent form of atrocity crimes today. The prohibition of crimes against humanity is a peremptory norm of general international law. To codify and give concrete effect to this prohibition, the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity must be based through a dedicated and effective convention.

In this connection, Micronesia is co-sponsoring the draft resolution on convening a United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity. We look forward to finally launching a formal negotiation process for elaborating a convention whose time is long overdue.

I thank you.