


**Statement by
Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See
UNGA 79 – Sixth Committee
Agenda item 8**
New York, 10 October 2024

Mr. Chair

Since this is my first intervention in this Committee, I would like to thank the members of the General Legal Assembly, the Bureau, and the other members of the Bureau for your dedication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-facilitators for guiding the resumed session of the Sixth Committee on this topic earlier this year.

Mr. Chair,

Customary international law has included the protection of humanity as international law since the Geneva Convention. A multilateral, legally binding instrument, codifying the existing customary law in this area, would greatly facilitate international cooperation for prevention and punishment of these heinous acts.

On the other hand, given that this instrument would be rooted in customary international law, it would be appropriate that this Committee should not depart from existing customary norms. Adding to or modifying the already existing provisions on jurisdiction and admissibility in the ICC Statute, before States practice and join in such a fully developed instrument, would not only be redundant but could undermine the effectiveness of the new instrument.

In such a context, my Delegation cannot but express its concern for the fact that the ILC draft omits the definition of gender contained from Article

Moreover, no person should be arrested, returned, surrendered or