at the Resumed Sixth Committee Session

"Crimes against humanity"

Agenda Item 80

Cluster I

United Nations, New York

1 April 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia , Albania , Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Madam Chair,

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐ ☐   ☐

Draft articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity in the second resumed session of the Sixth Committee.

We were delighted to see the Sixth Committee interacting richly on such an important matter in April last year. We thank everyone for doing so.

Our legal exchanges were intellectually motivating to all of us. But above all, they are part of something bigger: defending humanity from crimes so horrendous that they threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. With that in mind, we encourage everyone to engage again fruitfully in this debate. We are convinced that together we can make a difference.

Turning now to the draft articles, we remain of the opinion that there is a gap in the international treaty framework that needs to be filled. While both war crimes and the crime of genocide have been enshrined in universally accepted conventions, crimes against humanity still remain the only core international crimes that do not have their own treaty. The ILC clearly agrees, as it has recommended elaborating a convention on the basis of the draft articles. We pay tribute to the important work of the Commission, as the primary international body entrusted with the codification and progressive development of international law.

Regarding the **Preamble**, allow us to emphasize a couple of issues.

North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The preamble in a treaty serves multiple functions. It provides context, background and the overall purpose or objectives of the agreement. In the