



Thank you Chair.

1. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the cross-regional statement made by the distinguished delegate from The Gambia and is pleased to see such a diverse group of States speaking with one voice.

2. For its part, the UK crimes against humanity and the progression of the draft Articles into a Convention.

3. Crimes against humanity are among the worst crimes we face. Over the years since Nuremberg, we have seen such crimes recognised in almost all regions of the world. Indeed, they are, tragically, all too familiar in the contemporary world. When the relevant criteria are satisfied, they include the most inhumane acts known to humankind, including sexual violence, apartheid and enslavement, among others.

4. However, there is not yet a general multilateral convention establishing a framework for the national prosecution of crimes against humanity. This represents an indefensible lacuna given the existing frameworks for other serious crimes such as genocide, war crimes and torture. Not only does the absence of such a framework undermine the prevention and prosecution of crimes against humanity, it also fails to give victims and survivors of such crimes the recognition they deserve. The real cost of crimes against humanity is the devastating impact upon victims, survivors, their families and communities. The UK is determined to prevent crimes against humanity, as putting an end to such crimes is the greatest legacy we can leave to those who have suffered from them.

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