



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York

## **Statement by**

**H. E. Ambassador Dr. Michael Koch  
German Federal Foreign Office  
The Legal Adviser**

**on the occasion of**

**the 71<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**6<sup>th</sup> Committee**

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Crimes against Humanity</b> <b>Special Rapporteur: Sean D. Murphy (USA)</b></p>
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Germany welcomes the work of the ILC on this highly relevant topic. We thank Special Rapporteur Sean Murphy for his second report, which is based on broad and in-depth research.

As a staunch supporter of international criminal law, Germany attaches great importance to the topic at hand. A possible Convention on Crimes against Humanity would not only complement treaty law on the core crimes, but might also foster inter-state cooperation regarding the investigation, prosecution and punishment of such criminal acts. A future convention ought to provide further impetus to our mutual aspirations to end impunity for atrocity crimes.

Please allow me to make two remarks on the work at hand:

First, as a founding member of the Rome Statute and an ardent supporter of the International Criminal Court, Germany welcomes the clear orientation towards the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In our view, doing everything to ensure compatibility with existing rules and institutions of international criminal law, in particular the International Criminal Court and its statute, is crucial for the success of this project.

Second, we counsel against proposing any additional institutionalised mechanisms under the Convention as this would necessarily create space for different interpretations.

We will continue to follow the work of the ILC on this issue with great interest.

Thank you.