

**Statement on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia by Elvira  
Cupika-Mavrina, Legal advisor of Latvia to the United Nations at the  
Resumed Sixth Committee Session "Crimes against humanity"  
Cluster 2**

Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the three Baltic States – Estonia, Lithuania and my own country, Latvia.

The Baltic States align with the statement made by the European Union and its Member States.

Firstly, turning to the draft **Article 2**:

We find the definition of crimes against humanity provided in draft Article 2 to be clear and comprehensive and we welcome its inclusive and diverse character regarding the circumstances in which these crimes may occur.

Further, we reiterate the need to avoid fragmentation of international law, hence we see merit in the fact that draft Article 2 is based on Article 7 of the Rome Statute. The definition of crimes against humanity enshrined in Article 7 of the Rome Statute has undisputedly enjoyed a wide international support, since it has also been included in the recently adopted Lubljana-the Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against humanity, War crimes and other international crimes. Therefore, in our view draft Article 2 will provide for an effective and widely accepted definition that will also complement international criminal law.

The definition aims to be victim-centered, which means that it has been designed to

I thank you!