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AJC WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY CONVENTION

The Asia Justice Coalition welcomes the adoption of the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee resolution establishing a formal and time-bound roadmap to convene a diplomatic conference on Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity under the aegis of the United Nations.

Since 2019, the Sixth Committee has deliberated upon the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on Crimes Against Humanity. Last week's decision by UN Member States by consensus marks a significant and historic step forward in the progressive codification and development of international law.

The resolution calls for a preparatory committee in 2026 and 2027, followed by three weeks of negotiations at the UN Headquarters in New York in 2028 and 2029, with a view to conclude and adopt an international treaty on crimes against humanity.

Once adopted, the proposed Convention will be a crucial legal instrument in bridging the normative gap in the international legal framework. It will establish state responsibility under international law for the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

We reiterate that entrenched impunity for atrocity crimes, including crimes against humanity, constitutes a threat to international peace and security and affects all regions and States. In light of protracted conflicts around the world, it is incumbent on UN Member States to collaborate, participate, and negotiate in good faith a robust, gender-competent, and victims- and survivor-centric convention.

We applaud the leadership of the co-facilitators of the resolution in the Sixth Committee—Mexico and The Gambia—for their vision and commitment to justice and accountability and for demonstrating that the 'Global South' can also play a leading role in international lawmaking.