

Washington University Law

Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY INITIATIVE

- The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative was launched in 2008 to study the need for a comprehensive convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, analyze the necessary elements of such a convention, prepare a draft treaty, and support the adoption of a new convention on crimes against humanity by the international community.

- The Initiative is directed by a seven-member Steering Committee:

Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, Chair

Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni

Ambassador Hans Corell

Justice Richard Goldstone

Professor Juan Méndez

Professor William Schabas

Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert

- The Initiative has progressed in phases, the first three of which have been completed:
 - **Phase I.** Preparation of the project and methodological development.
 - **Phase II.** Private study of the problem through the commission of working papers by leading experts and collaborative discussion of draft treaty language at expert meetings.
 - **Phase III.** Public discussion through consultation and adoption of the final text of the *Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity*; publication of *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (2nd ed. Cambridge 2013) containing the *Proposed Convention* in English, French, and Spanish, the papers commissioned in Phase II and a Comprehensive History of the Initiative.
 - **Phase IV.** Promotion of the strengths and innovations of the *Proposed Convention*, which has now been translated into Arabic, Chinese, German, and Russian in addition to French and Spanish; advocacy with members of the International Law Commission, academics, government officials, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders in the international community.
- More information regarding The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative is available at <http://crimesagainsthumanity.wustl.edu/>.

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