



23 May 2023

Update from Ljubljana: Critical stage of MLAT negotiations

The Asia Justice Coalition secretariat is in Ljubljana, Slovenia participating in the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes (**MLA Convention**).

The AJC secretariat stands with other members of civil society and States supporting the retention of the original draft articles 6 and 11 of the MLA Convention. The draft Convention presents an important opportunity for international cooperation against impunity—obliging States Parties to establish and exercise jurisdiction to act against impunity explicitly makes this possible.

The two States that have proposed changes to Articles 6 & 11 – key to the MLA Convention – [did so by arguing that](#)—although contrary to developing international law—the changes are important to make the Convention broadly agreeable. The AJC Secretariat stresses that leaving significant discretion to future States Parties to exercise jurisdiction *will only* dilute the obligations of States who already support this cause.

In particular, the AJC secretariat thanks the delegations of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, the State of Palestine, Austria, Romania, Ireland, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ukraine, Paraguay and others for their support on maintaining the obligatory language 'shall' in draft Article 6.

The secretariat believes that the obligations in the original draft articles 6 and 11 holds the promise for Asian States to express their commitment to addressing impunity within their domestic jurisdictions.

The secretariat calls on supporting State Parties to stand firm to the proposed purpose of this treaty and use this opportunity to *improve* the legal landscape for addressing impunity through international cooperation.
