



The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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STATEMENT BY EGYPT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON
"THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF
THE PRINCIPLE OF

UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to inform you that the African Group has discussed agenda item 84 entitled "The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction"

The African Group thanks the Secretary-General for his report on E/CN.4.1999.1 (A/67/116). The Group looks forward to the work of the Working Group on Universal Jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee in the coming year. It is pleased to see that the Working Group will be reconvened during this session.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated in decisions of the African Union, the African Group believes that universal jurisdiction is a principle of international law whose purpose is to ensure that individuals who commit grave crimes, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, do not escape impunity and are brought to justice. In that regard, the African Union Constitutive Act provides for the establishment of the African Court on Human and Rights in any Member State, in situations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Furthermore, African States have adopted progressive human rights instruments, including optional protocols that permit individual complaints and grievance procedures

immunity of Heads of State under international law. Most specifically, the African Group reiterates the call by the African Heads of State and Government to impose a moratorium