



BRAZIL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY Sixth Committee

Item 84: “The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction”

18 OCTOBER, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil associates itself with the statement made by

We have welcomed the establishment of a Working Group within the Sixth Committee to deal with this agenda item, and reiterate Brazil’s full support to its President, the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica.

Universal jurisdiction is one way to achieve accountability and deny impunity to those accused of serious international crimes. We consider the aim of universal jurisdiction to be the prosecution of individuals allegedly responsible for extremely serious crimes defined by international law that, by their gravity, shock the conscience of the whole humanity and forcefully violate imperative norms of international law.

which Brazil has obliged itself to repress through treaties or conventions, such as torture.

Under Brazilian legal framework, it is necessary to enact national legislation to enable the exercise of universal jurisdiction or to persecute and judge an action or omission, which is considered a crime under international law. It is not possible, thus, to exercise universal jurisdiction over a crime under customary international law alone, because the lack of specific legislation would result in a violation of the principle of legality.

Mr. Chairman,

Although there is a difference between universal jurisdiction and the exercise of criminal jurisdiction by international tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court, we must acknowledge that these two institutions share a common objective. This is what we should have in mind during our debates: to deny impunity to those accused of serious international crimes.

My delegation is committed to contributing the best way it can to this very important discussion and looks forward to participating in it.

Thank you.