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Statement by Mr. Zhou Wu
Chinese Delegate

(translation)

At the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly

On Agenda Item 86
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

New York, 20-21 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,
The Chinese delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Sixth Committee and its working group to determine the scope and the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.
As a composite issue involving legal, political and diplomatic aspects, universal jurisdiction is both complex and sensitive. The Sixth Committee has deliberated on this topic for seven consecutive years, yet there are still notable differences among states on its definition and scope of application. on The Except for a handful of serious crimes such as piracy on the high 5 492 Tt1ce3.8 93.52 4929e0

With the exception of piracy, there exist currently notable differences and controversies among member states on whether universal jurisdiction exists in other cases and on its scope and application conditions. Relevant rules of customary international law have yet to emerge. In the meantime, universal jurisdiction is different from the obligation of "extradite or prosecute" established by a series of international treaties against transnational crimes. It is also different from the jurisdiction explicitly granted to existing international judicial bodies by specific treaties or other legal instruments. In the absence of an international consensus on the definition, scope and application of universal jurisdiction, states should refrain from going beyond the current international law and seeking to unilaterally claim and exercise universal jurisdiction not explicitly permitted by the current international law, so as to effectively safeguard the basic principles of international law and the common interest of the international community, and ensure the