Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

Iran views universal jurisdiction as a treaty-based exception in exercising criminal jurisdiction. However, the prevailing principle is the principle of territorial jurisdiction, which bars states from exercising criminal jurisdiction beyond borders and is key to the principle of sovereign equality of states. However, there is no express legislation concerning universal jurisdiction in our legal system. We do not seem to have any precedent applying this jurisdiction in our judicial practice either.

According to Article 8 of the Iranian Penal Code, "With regard to crimes which
the perpetrators shall be prosecuted, under a special law or international treaties, in any country where they are found, they shall be prosecuted and punished according to criminal laws of the

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