Mr. Chair,

General Assembly
Seventieth Session

20 October 2015

SiHth Committee

Agenda item 86:

The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

Statement by Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik First Secretary. Norway

First, Norway welcomes the recent report of the Secretary-General (A/70/125), prepared on the basis of comments and observations of States and relevant observers including the EU, the ICRC and OPCW.

Mr. Chair,

It is our belief that all delegations engaging in this debate on universal jurisdiction share the 8 Tcric5hat

Mr. Chair,

Norway's new Penal Code of 2005 entered into force on 1 October this year. To a large extent,

stronger legal interest or be better placed in proceeding with the prosecution these are also element of relevance.

Furthermore, we have put in place robust control mechanisms guaranteeing the consideration of all relevant factors before universal jurisdiction is applied. The law does not open for any external interference, political or otherwise, into the deliberations made within the realm of independent prosecutors.

Mr. Chair,

In the context of this debate, some delegations have alluded to the alleged abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction. We agree that we must take great care in inhibiting any abuse of prosecutorial power from occurring, a danger inherent in all criminal law systems and not only related to the exercise of universal jurisdiction but applicable to all prosecutorial decisions. An important factor is to make sure that the work of independent prosecutors is not subjected to inappropriate interferences.

In this regard, we welcome a discussion on prosecutorial discretion to universal jurisdiction cases, including who should have the authority to make prosecutorial decisions in such cases. We think such a debate would take us down a more constructive path than continuing the current focus on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair,

As in previous years, we are following this debate with interest, and look forward to working together with you and other delegations in the context of the working group.

Thank you.