United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction
11 October 2018

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil associates itself with the statement delivered by the El Salvador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and takes this opportunity to make some comments on a national perspective.

If the universality of the Rome Statute is achieved and this is a goal we should not spare efforts to achieve , there would be more fertile ground for values of justice and stability and for an order based on International Law. Discussions on universal jurisdiction would probably lose relevance. Meanwhile, these debates should not deviate us from promoting the Rome Statute system and from the objective we all share: to deny impunity to the perpetrators of serious international crimes.

Mr. Chairman

Universal jurisdiction is one way to achieve accountability and deny impunity to those responsible for serious international crimes. We consider the aim of universal jurisdiction to be the prosecution of individuals allegedly responsible for serious crimes defined by international law that, by their gravity, shock the conscience of the whole humanity and violate peremptory norms of international law.
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The exercise of jurisdiction irrespective of the link between the crime and the prosecuting State is an exception to the more consolidated principles of territoriality and nationality. On the one hand, Ohlin