



crimes. Moreover, majority of judges indicated that universal jurisdiction *in absentia* is unknown to the international conventional law.

Furthermore, whatever the source of universal jurisdiction, what remains to be of concern is its selective application which can prejudice such cardinal principles of international law as equal sovereignty of States and immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction.

**Mr. Chairman**

We have noted that the International Law Commission (ILC) has placed the topic of universal jurisdiction on its long-term programme of work. However, as it seems to be evident in the observations of Member States, we have yet to develop a common understanding of the concept of universal jurisdiction and its distinction from related concepts. Our