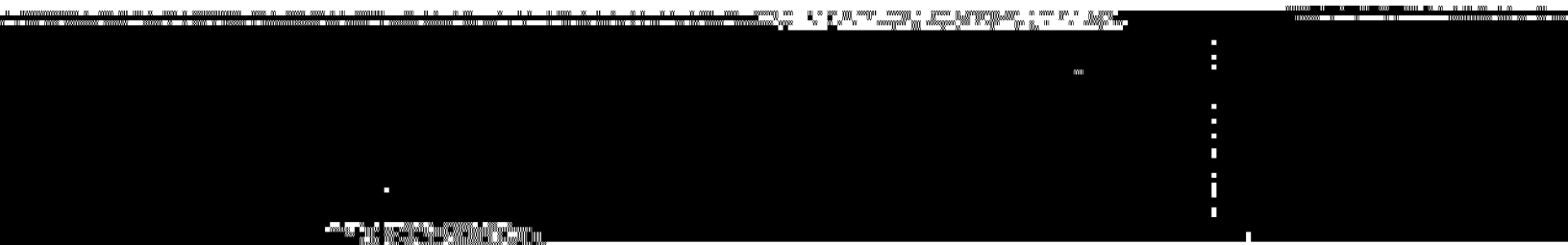


PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION - UNCLASSIFIED - EYES ONLY



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CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION - UNCLASSIFIED - EYES ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION - UNCLASSIFIED - EYES ONLY

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Mr. Chairman

Permit me, on behalf of my Delegation to thank the Secretary-General for providing us, an in depth Report on the Scope and Application of the Principles of Universal Jurisdiction. This lucid and comprehensive Report contains information from Member States on relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules, and judicial

controversy among UN Member States. This is because any State can unilaterally invoke it against an accused person regardless of where the alleged crime was committed and irrespective of the nationality of the accused. Against this backdrop, Nigeria holds that it should be exercised in good faith and in line with other principles of international law, including the sovereignty of States and immunity of State Officials.

Mr. Chairman,

4. In this connection, we also hold that the primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting serious crimes lies with the State possessing territorial jurisdiction. In this regard, the principle should be a complementary mechanism to ensure that the accused persons can only be held accountable where the State is unable or unwilling to exercise its jurisdiction.

5. To that effect, the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction should, as much as possible, only be used as a last resort. It must not be used prematurely or hastily to assume jurisdiction over matters when there is a possibility of cooperating with the State where a crime was originally

many Member States including African States who

although they respect the Principle are concerned about
the uncertainty of (if not bias in) its Scope and Application

The scope and applicability of the concept of universal