

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Sierra Leone respectively aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and The Gambia on behalf of the African Group.

As you know, during the Sixty-Third Session of the General Assembly, the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Group of African States, requested inclusion on our agenda of the topic "Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction" in A/63/227/Rev.1. Tanzania proposed this issue for Sixth Committee

We have made some progress on these issues over the years. In addition, the Secretary-General has catalogued helpful evidence of state practice on universal jurisdiction. His rich reports have demonstrated that this principle is recognized and embraced by the domestic legislation of countries from all regions of the world. Indeed, for its part, in Decision EX.CL/731(XXI) adopted in Addis Ababa on 13 July 2012, the African Union

Assembly of Heads of State and Government endorsed the African Union Model National Law on Universal Jurisdiction over International Crimes. The AU Assembly

Thirdly, Sierra Leone participated in the informal dialogue convened by Costa Rica with ILC members from all regions on this topic in May 2018. A key question at that and other commemoration events concerned the relationship between our Committee and the ILC. Some delegations suggested that the ILC, rather than addressing theoretical issues, should address issues that are of practical relevance to States.

Universal jurisdiction is indeed one such topic with great practical relevance for States.

Mr. Chairman,