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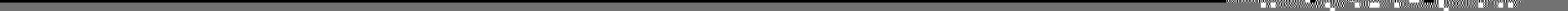
## AMERICAN

REPUBLIC

BY

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NEW YORK



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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, at the outset, to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the principle

of universal jurisdiction prepared on the basis of observations and comments by States and observers.

Slovakia welcomed the decision taken at the previous session of this Committee to establish a dedicated working group to allow for an in-depth discussion on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction. We express our hope that a legal debate will contribute to the alleviation of political sensitivities attached to the principle of universal jurisdiction. It may bring clarity to some pertinent issues like its scope (which crimes it applies to), the relationship between universal jurisdiction and the immunity of State officials from criminal jurisdiction or the interplay between universal jurisdiction and the *aut dedere aut judicare* obligation.

Slovakia wishes to recall that universal jurisdiction has been a firm part of

In this respect, we wish to note that a development of an MLA Treaty, which is currently being negotiated, or the prospective elaboration of a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, would not strip universal jurisdiction of its relevance or narrow the scope of its application. Those projects, the application of universal jurisdiction, as well as the strengthening of the ICC, would

ensuring accountability.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman,

The idea, whereby the gravest crimes under international law must not remain unpunished, whoever the perpetrators are and wherever those persons may be, is, in our view, the *ratio* behind the application of universal jurisdiction. We hope that this underlying idea will guide our dialogue during the present session.

I thank you