

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

delivered by
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Item 87: The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction
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Thank you, Madame Chair. The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank the Secretary General for his report and note Section IV which contains a synopsis of issues raised by Governments for possible discussion. The report, together with the discussions in the Working Group, show the divergence and lack of consensus among Member States on the definition, scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction; and therefore the need for further examination by the Sixth Committee of this issue.

Universal jurisdiction, as a generally accepted principle of international law, is considered part of Philippine law, both through the incorporation clause

jurisdiction over certain offenses, even if the act occurred outside its territory or was committed by a person not its national, or inflicted no injury to its nationals.

Second, because it is exceptional, its scope and application must be limited and clearly defined. Immunity of state officials, in particular, must be preserved and respected. Unrestrained invocation and abuse of the exercise of universal jurisdiction only undermines the principle.