

29/4/2021

Egypt's Submission pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/142, on "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction" for the purpose of inclusion in the report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session

- 1- The position of Egypt has not changed in this regard, as reflected in previous submissions and national statements delivered on the agenda item in previous sessions.
- 2- Egypt perceives the principles of universality to be only complimentary to the jurisdiction of competent national courts, which have the primary jurisdiction over crimes occurring within the respective territories of states.
- 3- Thus, the application of the principle of universality shall be restricted to instances where the state of primary jurisdiction is unwilling or unable to exercise jurisdiction. Furthermore, such use of the principle shall be conducted in an independent, impartial and a-political manner, without abuse. Application of such principle shall also be consistent with principles of international law, and customary international law, including protection of state sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, as well as the rules governing sovereign and diplomatic immunity.
- 4- Egyptian law recognizes that national courts have the primary responsibility over acts committed within their respective jurisdictions.