

Statement by the Republic of Türkiye
on Agenda Item 85
"The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction"
at the Sixth Committee

12 October 2022
New York

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Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report under this agenda item and Member States and observers for their valuable input to the report.

Ensuring individual criminal accountability for the most serious crimes under international law occupies a crucial place in the overall efforts to strengthen the rule of law and maintain international peace and security.

Türkiye recognizes the importance of preventing impunity for perpetrators of such crimes with the primary role to be assumed by Member States at the national level and through effective inter-State cooperation.

Universal jurisdiction is one of the tools available to us in our efforts to eliminate impunity. It is also a rather exceptional one that needs to be a last resort.

In this regard, we note that many Member States have also emphasized this exceptional character in their contributions, as reflected in various reports prepared by the

Türkiye also shares the views of many contributing States, as regards the necessity to uphold certain fundamental principles of international law such as sovereign equality of States and non-interference in internal affairs.

Mr. Chair,

While the principle of universal jurisdiction may be resorted to and may indeed serve as an effective mechanism in certain circumstances, we also need to keep in mind the broad and legitimate concerns expressed by many delegations over the absence of a common understanding regarding its scope and over its potential abuse or misuse.

In this context, we believe that the scope, limits and application of this exceptional principle must be thoroughly considered and carefully monitored. First and foremost, the principle must be

