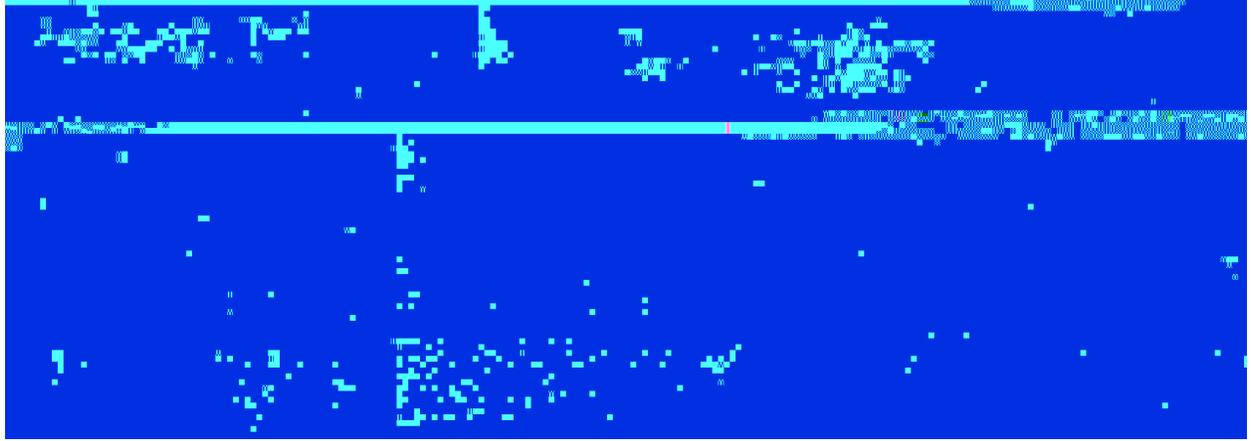
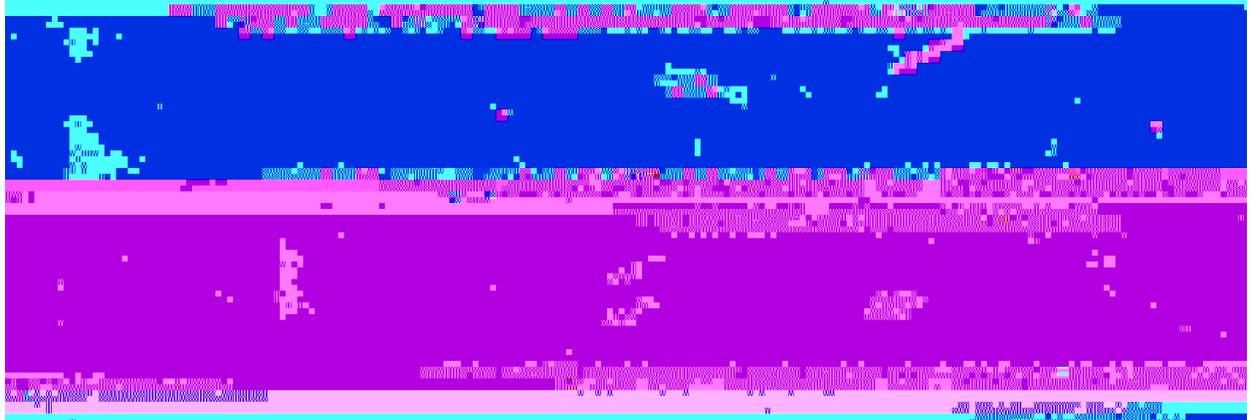
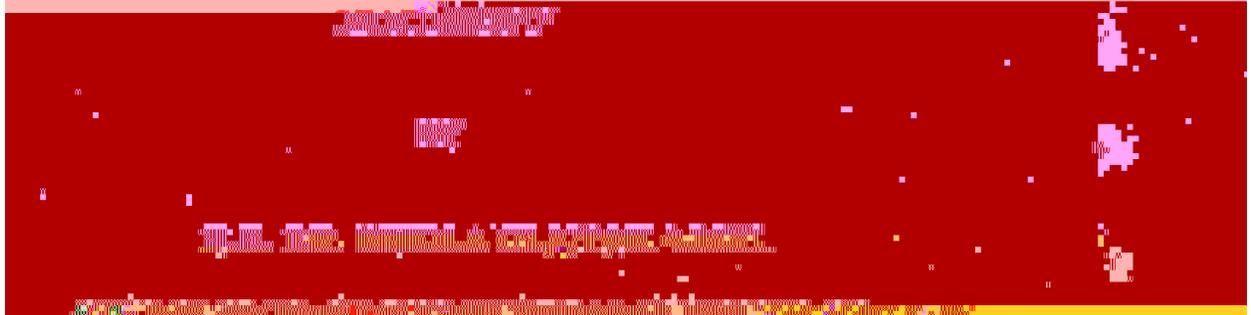


PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970



Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes to express gratitude to the Secretary-General for the indepth Report as contained on A/78/130 on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction. We align with the Statements of the African Group and Non-Aligned Movement on the application of Universal Jurisdiction.

2. My delegation reiterates its concern about the uncertainty of the application of this principle. We also call on the international community to adopt measures that will put an end to the abuse and political manipulation of the principle, to ensure that the scope of the principle is clearly defined to avoid abuse.

3. My delegation welcomes the adoption of Resolution A/77/111 by the General Assembly, in particular operative paragraph 3, which "Invites the Working Group of the Sixth Committee, to be established at its seventy-ninth session, to consider and comment on the question "on the relevant elements of a working concept of universal jurisdiction" My delegation looks forward to a constructive deliberation on the question on the topic.

Mr. Chair,

4. Nigeria believes that the principle of Universal Jurisdiction is an important principle of international law, as it is designed to prevent impunity, promote adherence and respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms worldwide and to punish those in leadership positions responsible for the most appalling crimes and atrocities, thereby giving hope for justice to so many, by demanding strict adherence to the rules of international humanitarian law.

5. The increasing pattern where perpetrators of heinous crimes escape into territories outside the original territories where they committed that crime, in order to escape prosecution, makes it imperative for all states to adopt legislations and measures which make it possible for such persons to be prosecuted wherever they are apprehended, under the principle of Universal Jurisdiction.

6. As a signatory to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Nigeria has contributed to the evolution of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction in criminal matters as developed within the court. Nigeria continues to work with other State Parties to the treaty to ensure that the application of the principle by the court is equitable and practical, especially in



extradition agreements or agreements on mutual legal assistance. Universal Jurisdiction must not be used by stronger countries to force their domestic legal systems on less endowed countries through a deprivation of the prosecutorial authority of the latter.

Mr. Chair,

9. In conclusion, the delegation of the Federal Republic of