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cbhYU(YXUJh ;) ÍH YgWYUbxUd]Wjcb'Zh YdfbMYCzi bj YgU'i fgMYcbi
UhhY+ h Ggcb'Zh YI B; YbYU5ggYa VmZQh 7ca a JhYZ**

Lithuania The Baltic States align with the statement made by the European Union and its Member States

Mr. Chair;

Perpetrators of international crimes cannot be allowed to escape accountability. As these crimes, by their very nature, are crimes against the international community as a whole, prosecuting those responsible is also a duty we owe to the international community as a whole. Therefore, we believe that universal jurisdiction is rooted in the precepts of international law. And as such it should be used effectively to both combat impunity and prevent future international crimes.

Universal jurisdiction, exchanging information, and pooling expertise, as well as ensuring redress, to name a few

When properly implemented, it can also serve as a strong deterrent against the commission of international crimes.

Mr Chair;

Shortly after the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the Baltic States, alongside Ukraine and other partners, established a Joint Investigation Team within EuJUST. This team facilitates investigations and prosecutions in the States concerned, assists in gathering and exchanging evidence on alleged core international crimes committed in Ukraine. Later, the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine was established, creating a unique judicial hub to support national investigations into the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Perpetrators of these crimes will ultimately face justice, whether under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the Special International Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine or national jurisdiction of the States concerned. Regardless of the chosen path, the mechanisms already in place contribute significantly to the pursuit of international justice and serve as examples of universal jurisdiction being actively applied in practice.

Mr Chair;

We encourage all States to adopt national legislation that enables the effective exercise of universal jurisdiction. Equally important is international cooperation. We acknowledge the various differences that remain, and the Secretary-General's report has provided a valuable overview of these issues. Nevertheless, our discussions should be guided by the shared goal of ending impunity for the most serious international crimes.

We believe that referring this topic to the International Law Commission would further our progress and advance the proper application of universal jurisdiction.

Thank you for your attention.
