



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations Te Aka Aorere

United Nations General Assembly: Sixth Committee Seventy-Ninth session The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

CANZ Statement delivered by Zoe Russell, First Secretary

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It is encouraging to see that many States have incorporated universal jurisdiction in their domestic legislation. We continue to encourage Member States that have not already done so to incorporate universal jurisdiction into their domestic legislation, in accordance with international law. By doing so, States contribute to strengthening the international accountability framework and ensuring that perpetrators of grave international crimes do not receive safe haven anywhere in the world.

We note recent judgments in Germany and decisions in France in cases involving nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic accused of international crimes committed in Syria. This demonstrates the importance of universal jurisdiction in advancing the fight against impunity where the International Criminal Court (ICC) does not have jurisdiction, including in the absence of referral by the Security Council, to complement the role of the ICC as a court of last resort.

We look forward to continuing this valuable discussion on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction during the working group of this session on the sub-

. We encourage delegations to engage constructively in those discussions. By working cooperatively and collaboratively, we can ensure that perpetrators and would-be perpetrators of the most serious international crimes are deterred and held to account.

Thank you.