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*Translated from Arabic*

Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations.

**The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction**

1. Lebanon is not a party to any treaties or agreements on universal jurisdiction. Lebanese law contains no provisions that could be construed as establishing the principle of universal jurisdiction.

2. Lebanon believes that universal jurisdiction should not be in violation of national sovereignty but rather should play a complementary role to it. Jurisdiction belongs first and foremost to national courts, which should not be bound by the authority of any other party, except in cases where it is clear that a national judiciary is incapable, unable or unwilling to conduct fair and credible legal proceedings.

3. Universal jurisdiction should be invoked only for the most heinous crimes that have been universally condemned by the international community and constitute flagrant violations of human rights.

4. In order to for international justice to be served and for criminals to be prevented from evading punishment, international cooperation in the extradition of wanted persons should be reaffirmed and recourse to force in that regard should be prohibited.