

**STATEMENT BY THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
ON ITEM 83 “THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF
THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION”
15 OCTOBER 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on the agenda item entitled “the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”. Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on this item and look forward to continuing the thorough consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee in the framework of the working group established for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

It is generally acknowledged that universal jurisdiction is an important principle, the validity of which was beyond doubt. It provides a tool to prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious crimes under international law.

Yet unfortunately, state practice reflects the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some politicians and legislators of non-African states, tailoring its application to indict some, while quitting others.

The fact that the crime of aggression, which “contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole” as described by the Nuremberg

Tribunal, is often neglected by many law makers and politicians who apply the principle of universal jurisdiction selectively under the guise of the desire to achieve global justice, reflects the arbitrary and subjective application or interpretation of this principle.

This manipulation Mr. Chairman does not serve justice, but rather affects the credibility of international law and the fight against impunity.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a need to agree on specific safeguards and conditions for the assertion of universal jurisdiction to prevent any abuse. It should always be exercised in good faith and with due regard to other principles of international law including the sovereign equality of states, the territorial jurisdiction and immunity of officials existing under customary international law, as recognized by the International Court of Justice.

Also the application of universal jurisdiction should require the consent of a governmental authority like an Attorney General and the presence of the accused person in the territory where proceedings are taking place.

Mr. Chairman,

We are aware that the controversy surrounding the principle of universal jurisdiction involves complex issues of a legal, political and diplomatic nature.

We intend to engage actively in the deliberations on this item within the working Group of the Sixth Committee. Our deliberations should focus on considering clear rules for the application of universal jurisdiction, its scope and definition, in order to ensure its reasonable exercise and compatibility with international law.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
