

ISRAEL

SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
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The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

Agenda Item 85

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United Nations, New York

Mr. Chair,

Israel welcomes this opportunity to continue to engage in the discussion on the Scope and Application of Universal Jurisdiction.

The Government of Israel would like to thank the Secretary-General for his recent report titled, "The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction" (A/72/112), and for his ongoing contribution to this sensitive and complex topic. We also wish to commend the efforts made by the Sixth Committee and its working group to facilitate and advance the discussion regarding the principle of universal jurisdiction, over the course of the last eight years.

Having said that, the Government of Israel wishes to reiterate briefly its position on this topic, as conveyed last year in the seventy-first session of the Sixth Committee.

While Israel, given its people's history, certainly embraces the importance of combatting impunity and ensuring that perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern, are brought to justice, we want to be sure that the principle of subsidiarity is honored, and that universal jurisdiction mechanisms are used only as a last resort.

Moreover, we would like to warn against the potential for political abuse of universal jurisdiction mechanisms and stress the importance of adopting safeguards against such unacceptable abuses.

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to working closely with the Committee on this agenda item in the future.

Thank you.