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STATEMENT

BY

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on

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

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Mr. Chair,

I wish to extend our thanks to the Secretary-General for his report.

We associate ourselves with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Gambia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the African group and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), respectively.

As we all know transnational incidences affect the interest of states and violate their laws, under the circumstance where the traditional geographic connection between the crime and committers is abolished due to technology. We, therefore, need to make sure our laws and institutions have adequate capacity to overcome the challenge posed by the transgressors.

The criminal law of Ethiopia recognizes universal jurisdiction for international crimes that include genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, terrorism, money laundering, and all crimes proscribed under treaties ratified by Ethiopia. It also encompasses illicit drug production and trafficking, human trafficking, production of indecent pictures and publications and others.

We believe that international cooperation is central for the effective enforcement of the principle of universal jurisdiction. Hence, the development and acceptance of the principle of universal jurisdiction at regional and international levels is commendable. Accordingly, the African

Union adopted a model law on universal jurisdiction with the aim of assisting states to apply the principle for the intended goal.

We agree with the delegations that underscore their concern on the possibility of abuse of the principle for malicious political ends and in violation of the principles of international law. This risk requires due attention and a mechanism to checking and timely correction of attempt to politicize the intention of the universal jurisdiction.

With that, I would like to conclude by underlining importance of the long-term programme of work of the International Law Commission which includes 'the principle of universal jurisdiction'. We need to contribute in its content by putting forth our observations, comments and sharing experiences. I trust we, can have a well-developed regime that addresses our concerns without impeding the purpose of the principle through our participation in developing the document.

Thank you