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Statement

by

**Mr. Natthakit Singto,
Second Secretary,
Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand**

**before the Sixth Committee
of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda item 84

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

New York, 16 October 2019

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Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report, which contains information and observations received from Member States and relevant observers on the current topic of discussion. Thailand would also like to thank the Sixth Committee for its continued effort in facilitating the discussion and therefore welcomes the establishment of the Working Group in this session. We look forward to engaging in the discussions on the question of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair,

3. Thailand attaches great importance to advancing and strengthening the rule of law. The judicious and responsible application of the principle of universal jurisdiction over the most serious crimes can bring perpetrators to justice and end impunity. We have thus promulgated national legislations to establish universal jurisdiction over certain crimes including serious criminal offenses relating to national security, terrorism, money laundering, counterfeiting, piracy, robbery and gang robbery in the high seas, indecency, transnational organized crimes, human trafficking, and IUU-related offenses.

4. It is our firm belief that the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction should be based on sound legal basis, consistent with the principles and rules of international law, to prevent its abuse or misuse for political purposes. In this regard, Thailand is of the view that transboundary crimes such as terrorism, piracy, transnational organized crimes and human trafficking should serve as sound legal basis for universal jurisdiction.

5. At the same time, national judicial systems should be further strengthened. Perpetrators should be prosecuted by the State on whose territory the crimes were committed or by the State whose nationals are victims of such crimes, in the case where it does not fall within the scope of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

6. In this respect, Thailand fully complies with our obligation to extradite or prosecute as required by international treaties and by other bilateral agreements to which Thailand is a party.

Mr. Chair,

7. There needs to be a clear definition and more clarity on the scope of universal jurisdiction. Distinction between the obligation to extradite or prosecute as required by international treaties and the principle of universal jurisdiction must also be made. In this regard, Thailand welcomes the decision of the International Law Commission to include the topic of “universal criminal jurisdiction” in its long-term programme of work, which we hope would move the discussion forward.

8. Lastly, we reiterate our full trust and support to the Sixth Committee, especially the Working Group of this session for this agenda item to address and resolve the issue of ambiguity regarding the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

I thank you.