



## VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and with reference to the note LA/COD/59/1 of 9 January 2019, has the honor to submit the following information on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction in the Finnish legal system, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/208 of 20 December 2018.

The information that was submitted in 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2017 regarding the Finnish Criminal Code is still valid. The provisions on universal jurisdiction are contained in Section 7 of Chapter 1 of the Criminal Code and in the Decree on the application of Section 7 of Chapter 1 of the Criminal Code. Section 7 of Chapter 1 together with Chapter 34 a (terrorist offences) of the Criminal Code were amended by Act No. 874/2018 which entered into force on 15 November 2018.

The new addition in Section 7 of Chapter 1 adds also robbery, aggravated robbery, extortion, aggravated extortion, forgery and aggravated forgery to the offences over which Finland exercises universal jurisdiction if such offences were carried out for the purpose of committing an offence listed in Chapter 34 a.

Additions including aggravated damage to data, aggravated interference with communications and aggravated interference in an information system were also introduced in Chapter 34 a (terrorist offences).

Also a new Section 1 a regarding an offence related to a radiological weapon and committed with terrorist intent was added to Chapter 34a. Furthermore, several additions to other Sections were introduced in connection with the new Section 1 a.

A new Section 5 c about travelling for the purpose of committing a terrorist offence was also introduced in Chapter 34 a.

As far as judicial practice is concerned, there is currently one file regarding the suspected commission of a terrorist crime in the preliminary investigation stage. In addition, another investigation regarding the suspected commission of a terrorist crime has proceeded to the stage where the prosecutor is considering whether to bring charges.

In 2017, information was provided about a pending case where two persons were charged with terrorist and war crimes. In this case the district court of Tampere gave its judgment on 24 May 2017, dismissing the charges. The case is currently pending in the court of appeal of Turku.

In addition, the courts of first instance have given their judgments on three different cases regarding the commission of war crimes, and several persons have been investigated and charged with crimes related to human trafficking.

Finland is committed to promoting accountability and is convinced that the principle of universal jurisdiction constitutes an essential tool in the fight against impunity.

The Permanent Mission of Finland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

16 April 2019



H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations