



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
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**Statement at the 76th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 87: Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
Julian Simcock, Deputy Legal Adviser
United States Mission to the U.N.
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Thank you, Chair.

We greatly appreciate the Sixth Committee's continued interest in this important agenda item. We thank the Secretary-General for his reports, which have usefully summarized the submissions made by States on this topic.

Despite the importance of this issue and its long history as part of international law relating to piracy, the United States maintains the view that basic questions remain about how jurisdiction should be exercised in relation to universal crimes and States' views and practices related to the topic.

In the years since the Committee took up this issue, we have engaged in thoughtful discussions on a number of important topics concerning universal jurisdiction, including with respect to its definition, scope, and application. The submissions made by States to date, the effort of the Working Group in this Committee, and the Secretary-General's reports have been valuable in helping us to identify differences of opinion among States as well as points of consensus on this issue. We remain interested in further exploring issues related to the practical application of universal jurisdiction.

The United States continues to analyze the contributions of other States and organizations. We welcome this Committee's continued consideration of this issue and the input of more States about their own practice. We look forward to exploring these issues in as practical a manner as possible.

Thank you, Chair.