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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction (Agenda  
item 85)  
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Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to express our great appreciation for the Sixth Committee's efforts for progress on this important agenda issue. I also thank the Secretary-General for his reports, which are very helpful for understanding various opinions and judicial practices of States.

The Republic of Korea notes that the principle of universal jurisdiction is an important and effective tool in the fight against impunity. At the same time, we are well aware that universal jurisdiction should be exercised in good faith and harmony with other principles and rules of international law and should not be abused in order to advance political goals.

In this vein, the Republic of Korea has incorporated the principle of universal jurisdiction into domestic legislation by allowing prosecution of certain crimes that did not take place in its territory by foreign nationals.

My delegation submitted the information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction to the OLA this spring for the first time, so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our representative regulations today.

The Criminal Act extends criminal liability under universal jurisdiction for crimes of trafficking in persons to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational and Organized Crime by amending the Criminal Act in

2013.

We enacted the Act on Punishment of Crimes under Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2011.

The Act on Punishment for Damaging Ships and Sea Structures, which was enacted to implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted universal jurisdiction in 2003.

We also incorporated universal jurisdiction for the Act on Counter-terrorism for the Protection of Citizens and Public Security, which was enacted to implement the related resolutions of the United Nations Assembly and Security Council in 2016.

The Republic of Korea continues to explore topics related to the practical application of universal jurisdiction and stands ready to contribute to further discussions on its nature, scope, and limits.

I thank you. /END/