



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

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STATEMENT BY

**MRS. REGINA CHAMA BOMA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

**DURING THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 85:
THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF
UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION**

New York
12th October 2022

Chairperson,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the **Kingdom of Morocco** on behalf of the African Group and the **Islamic Republic of Iran** on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Chairperson,

Universal Jurisdiction seeks to promote global accountability by obligating countries to punish perpetrators of serious crimes and repressing serious violations of the law. This obligation is particularly essential in situations where countries with closer links to the crime are either unable or unwilling to “extradite or prosecute” the perpetrators. There is no doubt that universal jurisdiction is a well-established principle in international law, and that certain crimes are detrimental to the attainment of international order and peace as well as sustainable development.

Various delegations have over the years provided proposals on the approaches and best practices that can be used to apply the principle of universal jurisdiction and ultimately guarantee justice and combat impunity. We take note of these proposals as they will

inform the processes of ensuring that Zambia achieves a more robust legal framework in relation to universal jurisdiction.

To make universal jurisdiction a reality, Member States must domesticate applicable Treaties and enact relevant laws. It is imperative to bridge the gap between international law and national law if we are to attain the desired results.

Chairperson,

In this respect, Zambia remains committed to upholding the principles and values enshrined in conventions and treaties to which it is a signatory. We remain committed to cooperate with other like-minded countries to preserve the principle of universal jurisdiction.

My delegation upholds the belief that injustice to one is injustice to all, and thus, wherever it manifests itself we must all be ready to combat the scourge—decisively, and without fear or favour.

Chairperson,

In our quest to ensure that perpetrators of injustice and heinous crimes are prosecuted and punished, the process must be devoid of any semblance of "bias", "abuse", or "misuse". The principles of

“consent” and “cooperation” of the states of nationality of the defendants as pre-requisites of the application of Universal Jurisdiction when regulated within the multilateral system can limit the “abuse” and “misuse” of universal jurisdiction.

The Government of Zambia remains committed to promoting global peace and security and has, accordingly, launched a robust criminal justice reform process. To ensure an efficient reform process, the Government has enlisted the cooperation of all relevant institutions, including the judiciary, legislature, law enforcement agencies, and the Zambia Law Development Commission. These are individually and collectively developing a more comprehensive legal framework that adequately incorporates key legal principles, such as universal jurisdiction.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, Zambia wishes to assure the international community that we remain committed to promoting and protecting the principle of universal jurisdiction and, for this reason, we will continue to undertake all necessary legal reforms that guarantee the promotion of global peace and security, and sustainable development.

I thank you.