



Statement by

Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

at

the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

on

**Agenda Items 84:
The Scope and Application of
the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction**

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Mr. Chair,

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/79/269.

The report is useful as it compiles the views expressed by Member States and helps to identify possible areas of convergence, as well as divergence regarding the definition, scope, and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

The section titled "*Future Work on the Agenda Item*" is also beneficial in charting possible courses of action and outlining the desired outcomes for this agenda item.

In light of this, allow me to share the following points:

FIRST, accountability matters.

My delegation views the principle of universal jurisdiction as a vital tool for promoting accountability and ending impunity for the most serious crimes against the international community as a whole.

This principle can help deny safe havens to perpetrators of egregious crimes, prevent future conflicts, and promote post-conflict stability.

It is also a key instrument for upholding the rule of law and strengthening the international criminal justice system.

Its implementation must, therefore, be consistent with international law and respect the sovereignty of all nations.

SECOND, a clearly defined scope and application of the principle helps prevent misuse.

While we recognize the importance of prosecuting egregious crimes, we caution against politically motivated, selective, and discriminatory applications of universal jurisdiction.

A lack of clarity on its scope and application can lead to inappropriate and even abusive uses of domestic law in relation to foreign nationals, and undermining fundamental principles of international law, such as state sovereignty and the immunity of state officials.

Therefore, prudence, judiciousness, and good faith are required to ensure that the principle is not subject to abuse.

Any evolution of this principle should not pave the way for arbitrary application.

LASTLY, enhancing international cooperation is key to the effective application of universal jurisdiction.

Harmonizing legal frameworks, facilitating mutual legal assistance, and enhancing extradition agreements between states are essential steps to addressing jurisdictional gaps, and ensuring justice is delivered.

Indonesia looks forward to working collaboratively to address the complex legal and procedural challenges posed by universal jurisdiction and to exploring ways to strengthen international cooperation.

This will help build a more cohesive international legal system.

Mr. Chair,

While the practice of universal jurisdiction has not yet achieved universal acceptance, Indonesia believes that this principle requires further in-depth discussion within the Sixth Committee.

To that end, Indonesia remains committed to actively contribute to the discussions, ensuring that universal jurisdiction is applied in a manner consistent with international law and the rule of law, while respecting the fundamental principles of state sovereignty and non-interference.

I thank you.
