

Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic
Of Egypt to the United Nations



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The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, and with reference to the note verbale no. LA/COD/59/1 dated 27 December 2023 regarding the invitation to Member States and relevant observers to the General Assembly, as appropriate, to submit, before 26 April 2024, information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 78/113, has the honour to attach herewith Egypt observation on the above mentioned resolution.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

24 April 2024

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations
New York

- 1- The position of Egypt has not changed in this regard, as reflected in previous submissions and national statements delivered on the agenda item in previous sessions.
- 2- Egypt perceives the principles of universality to be only complimentary to the jurisdiction of competent national courts, which have the primary jurisdiction over crimes occurring within the respective territories of states.
- 3- Thus, the application of the principle of universality shall be restricted to instances where the state of primary jurisdiction is unwilling or unable to exercise jurisdiction. Furthermore, such use of the principle shall be conducted in an independent, impartial and a-political manner, without abuse. Application of such principle shall also be consistent with principles of international law, and customary international law, including protection of state sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, as well as the rules governing sovereign and diplomatic immunity.
- 4- Egyptian law recognizes that national courts have the primary responsibility over acts committed within their respective jurisdictions. Principles of jurisdiction are regarded by Egyptian courts as a matter of public order.