

Statement by Ms. Tania Steenkamp of the South African Permanent Mission to the United Nations, in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly under the Agenda Item “The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction.”

Chairperson,

Thank you again for this opportunity to address the Sixth Committee, this time on the important topic of the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction. We also thank the Secretary-General for his updated Report on this topic.

application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, as expressed by Judges Higgins, Kooijmans and Buergenthal in the *Arrest Warrant* case in the International Court of Justice. It may well be that in considering this question, it will become necessary to also consider the scope of the immunities referred to and that answers must be sought to questions such as who is entitled to immunities under international law or whether the nature of the crime in question would affect the immunities and if so, to what extent. In answering these questions, we would also go a long way towards addressing concerns by some member states as to the potential for the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Let me also say that we are willing to consider all options to expedite our work, including, if agreeable to other delegates, and if it would, in fact expedite our work, requesting the consideration of some or all aspects by the International Law Commission.

Chairperson,

We trust that the work of the sixth committee on this topic will contribute towards a legal regime where universal jurisdiction is exercised in accordance with agreed parameters and guidelines, in a manner that brings justice to the victims of grave offences such as slavery, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

I thank you.