THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATION

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Statement by Mr. Rovshan Israfilov
Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, at the Sixth Committee of the sixty-nine session of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 84 "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction"

15 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguish representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The discussions on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction maintains its importance for the Republic of Azerbaijan.

We believe that the principle in question contributes to such a vital matter as strengthening of the rule of law on both national and international levels as well as protection of common values and maintenance of the international legal order. The validity of the principle is explained by the very nature and scale of the crimes involved, the severity of their consequences and unacceptability of the impunity of its perpetrators.

In recent years, important steps have been taken for the protection and vindication of rights and the prevention and punishment of crimes having an international dimension and scope. Indeed, ending impunity is essential not only for the purposes of identifying responsibility of individual perpetrators

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developments of international jurisprudence in this field. As we previously informed the Secretary-General, the national law of the Republic of Azerbaijan establishes the jurisdiction of its criminal courts to judge a number of acts covered by the scope of the universal jurisdiction as well as existing practice in this field.

With regard to the scope of the principle, we are of the view that although a number of international treaties provide for universal jurisdiction with regard to various offences, States practice is largely limited to such crucial international offences as war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace.

We believe that the primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting serious international crimes lies with the State possessing territorial jurisdiction, and that universal jurisdiction provides a complementary mechanism to ensure that

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