



BRAZIL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY Sixth Committee

Item 84

õThe Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdictionö

15-16 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil associates itself with the statement delivered by Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and takes this opportunity to make some comments on a national perspective. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretariat for compiling the information referred to in document A/69/174.

Universal jurisdiction is one way to achieve accountability and deny impunity to those accused of serious international crimes. We consider the aim of universal jurisdiction to be the prosecution of individuals allegedly responsible for serious crimes defined by international law that, by their gravity, shock the conscience of the whole humanity and violate imperative norms of international law.

The exercise of jurisdiction irrespective of the link between the crime and the prosecuting State is an exception to the more consolidated principles of territoriality and nationality. On the one hand, the principle of sovereign equality reminds us that the exercise of jurisdiction is a primary responsibility of the State concerned. On the other, to put an

A proper definition of universal jurisdiction and a shared understanding of the scope of its application need to be agreed upon in order to prevent any misapplication or improper resort to universal jurisdiction, and to avoid its selective application.

Brazil welcomes the activities of the Working Group and supports an incremental