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³The scope and application of universal jurisdiction

Statement by - X O L D 2 ¶ % U L H Q
First Secretary (Legal)
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

on behalf of the CANZ group

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chair

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, as well as Australia.

CANZ recognises universal jurisdiction as a well established principle of international law. It vests in every State the competence to exercise criminal jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of international concern, regardless of where the conduct occurs and the nationality of the perpetrator, and irrespective of any other links between the crimes and the prosecuting State.

Universal jurisdiction was first developed at customary international law in relation to

punishment a joint concern of all members of the international community. Holding to account those responsible for these crimes is necessary to enhance the rule of law, bring justice to victims, and meaningfully contribute to sustainable peace.

Mr Chair

CANZ maintains that, as a general rule, primary responsibility for investigating and