REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Statement

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Statement on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

New York, 15 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating you, as well as members of the bureau, for your

election to spearhead the work of the 6th Committee.

I would also like to state, at the outset, that my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), and by the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement). I will only add a few comments on my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Rwanda recognizes that universal jurisdiction is a principle of International Law whose purpose is to ensure that individuals who commit heinous crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity do not enjoy impunity anywhere in the World and are brought to justice.

In this respect, Rwanda commends UN member States that extradited or prosecuted people who participated in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. However, we regret that a number of genocide fugitives are still enjoying safe haven in UN member States, including nine key genocide fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Court for Rwanda (ICTR).

We take this · opportunity to remind the key prov1s1on of Security Council

Rwanda also supports ongoing discussions inside the General Assembly's 6

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Committee aiming at adopting a new framework that would prevent the application of universal jurisdiction in arbitrary or politically motivated ways. Our wish is to see this process conducted effectively and objectively.

I thank you Mr. Chairman! I I