



Introduction

and the
"Basic" Symposium

Major North American & S. Africa

Canadian & South American

... ..
... ..
... ..

Mr. Chair,

In times where we are being confronted to atrocities and other egregious violations of international law, it is imperative to pursue our common goals of achieving accountability, upholding

This is where the principle of universal jurisdiction finds its essence, and its *bona fide* application is key to attaining those goals.

Yet, Mr. Chair, many loopholes still exist and improvements need to be made.

Given that the application of this principle lies on the nature of the crimes committed, it is essential to agree on a common list and definitions of these most serious crimes under international law for which this principle should apply. Such a harmonization would help in avoiding ambiguities and uncertainties.

Here, it is important to warn against the risk of selectivity and abuse in the application of this principle that could reduce it to a political instrument rather than a legal endeavor.

Universal jurisdiction should also come hand in hand with the principle of complementarity. It is