

	Mr. Chairman,
	My delegation has, once again, the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We take note of the report of the Secretary
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	The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda Item "The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction". As you may recall, the

The African Group stated, in a memorandum annexed to the request for the

agenda of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

abuse in the resort to universal jurisdiction, particularly over African officials, caused the African Group to request in February 2009 the inclusion of an additional item on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction on the

the sovereign equality of states, the territorial jurisdiction and immunity of officials existing under customary international law.

The African Group recalls the view expressed by the International Court of Justice that the cardinal principle of immunity of heads of states should not be put to question or be re-examined

## Mr. Chairman,

The concern of the African group lies in the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction, which is a development that could endanger international law and the fight against impunity. The African Group is aware that some non-African States and their domestic courts have sought to justify their arbitrary or unilateral application or interpretation of the principle of universal jurisdiction on customary international law.

We wish to remind those States that it is trite law recognized in all principal legal systems, and reflected in the jurisprudence and decisions of the International Court of Justice, that a State which relies on a purported international custom practiced by States must, generally speaking,

