United Nations General A
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil thanks the Secretary
referred to in document A/75/151 on the scope and application of
universal jurisdiction. The report confirms that state practice on this
matter is not uniform: it varies on both the range of crimes that trigger

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Brazil has obliged itself to repress through treaties or conventions, such
as torture. Under Brazilian legal framework, it is necessary to enact
national legislation to enable the exercise of universal jurisdiction or to
persecute and judge an action or omission, which is considered a crime
under international law. It is not possible, thus, to exercise universal
jurisdiction over a crime under customary international law alone,
because the lack of specific legislation would result in a violation of the
principle of legality.
Mr. Chairman,
Although there is a difference between universal jurisdiction and
the exercise of criminal jurisdiction by international tribunals, we must
acknowledge that these two tools share a common objective: to deny
impunity to the perpetrators of serious international crimes. Hence, they
should be complementary to each other, in a manner that favors