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AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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1. The delegation of Sierra Leone aligns this statement to the statement delivered by the Distinguished Representative of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

2.

4. The Secretary - * H Q H U D O . V U H S R U W d R f u m W K L V V
an increasing State practice based on the universality
principle. This is why my delegation is looking forward to
reviewing the report to be submitted by the Secretary -
General , as per paragraph 4 of General Assembly
resolution A/77/111 , to the Assembly at its seventy -ninth
session reviewing all the submissions of Member States
and relevant observers, as well as views expressed in the
debates of the Sixth Committee, since the sixty -second
session of the Assembly and identifying possible
convergences and divergences on the definition, scope
and application of univers al jurisdiction for the
consideration of the Committee μ

Chair,

5. Sierra Leone applies the universality principle in a limited
scope. This is pursuant to the Geneva Conventions Act
2012, which provides for offences and penalties for
specific violations of the Geneva Conventions and their
Additional Protocols . This covers offences committed by
citizens of Sierra Leone or criminal conduct carried out
on our territory , and also W R S H U V R Q V R I ´ Z K D

comment on the question 'RQ WKH UHOHYDQW HOH
D ZRUNLQJ FRQFHSW RI XQLYHUVDO
contained in operative paragraph 3 of the resolution
A/77/111,

13. Part of the justice mechanisms efforts is the need to address the critical gap in the exercise of jurisdictions or lack thereof on sexual and gender -based crimes . In the view of the delegation of Sierra Leone, member States can start preparatory work collectively on universal jurisdiction codification for sexual and gender -based crimes. In essence , we cooperate as Member States to ensure access to justice, and consequently remedies and assistance for survivors of sexual violence through the application of universal jurisdiction.

14. The delegation of Sierra Leone in line with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 77/111 invites the International Law Commission to develop draft provisions on the application of universal criminal jurisdiction in relation to sexual and gender -based crimes. This request, we note , is made in accordance with the Statute and mandate of the International Law Commission and the aforementioned General Assembly resolution.

15. Let me close , Chair , by calling

high interest to member States and the whole of the international community, reinforcing our international commitment to ending sexual violence.

16. I thank you.