

Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran
concerning
the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

1. The views and observations of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the scope and application of universal jurisdiction remain consistent and have been reflected in its international statements delivered in previous

that is to be invoked on the basis of treaty frameworks to which the concerned states and parties due regard shall be had to the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention, and territorial integrity. Along the same lines, such applications should not encroach upon the principle of State sovereignty, as the hallmark of international relations and the principle of immunity of State officials, which is a significant manifestation thereof.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran has on numerous occasions shared the concern raised by some judges of the International Court of Justice with regard to the creeping growth of WKH VFRSH RI WKH SULQFLSOH RI XQLYHUV:DDUJ MQW L V G case of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium). As such, we share the view that it would be judicial chaos should jurisdiction be conferred upon the courts of every State in the world to prosecute international crimes; we also share the view [raised by Judge Guillaume in his separate opinion] K D W 3 X Q L Y H U n a b s e n t i a M X U L V G L V X Q N Q R Z Q W R L Q W H U Q D W L R Q D O F R Q Y H Q W L R Q D O O D

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls that the deliberations within the Sixth Committee on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction were advised by a number of delegations against the unnecessary expansion of crimes under universal jurisdiction. In a similar vein, the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to underline that the unwarranted expansion of crimes under universal jurisdiction runs afoul of the very purpose envisaged in exercising universal jurisdiction in the first place as the ramifications resulting therefrom could lead to the potential application of such jurisdiction for politically-motivated purposes and also could undermine the role and the raison d'être of the said form of jurisdiction in combating the most egregious crimes of concern to the

international community as a whole. Therefore, resort to this complementary jurisdiction