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Seventy-fourth session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 84

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction
Oral report of the Chair of the Working Group

Chair: Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernández (Costa Rica)

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/208 of 20 December 2018, the Sixth Committee decided, at its first meeting, on 7 October 2019, to establish a Working Group to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction. Pursuant to the same resolution, the General Assembly

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was no longer available to serve in that capacity. The Working Group

work.

? The Working Group had before it the various reports of the

against the backdrop of the plenary debate at the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th meetings of the Sixth Committee, held on 15, 16 and 17 October 2019.

III. Informal summary

The present informal summary is for reference purposes only and

is not an official record of the proceedings. At its first meeting, on 18 October, in my capacity as Chair, I presented an overview of past

proceedings, including the discussions that had led to the Informal Working Paper, reiterating that the issues raised in the Informal Working Paper were intended to be illustrative and are without

(b) "What are the conditions, if any, to the applicability of universal jurisdiction for such crimes?"; and

(c) "What are the instances, if any, in which universal jurisdiction

country?"

7. In response to each of these questions, several delegations provided information on the crimes to which universal jurisdiction would apply under their national laws, as well as on the conditions to such application. Information was also provided on judicial practice, in which a national court recognized universal jurisdiction concerning

8. Following the exchange of views on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, I invited delegations to share their views on how to better achieve the mandate entrusted to the Working Group, seeking the best way to proceed. Several delegations reiterated the importance and usefulness of the dialogue in the Working Group, expressing their willingness to continue the discussion on universal jurisdiction within the current framework. In this regard, some delegations welcomed the continued practice of reflecting State practice in the annual report of the Secretary General. At the same

time, there were suggestions to broaden the scope of discussion and focus on the concerns of delegations, making best use of the time available to the Working Group. In addition, support for consideration of the topic by the International Law Commission was reiterated

9. [A Chair of the Working Group] observed that the discussion

delegations to engage with each other regarding the work of the Council of

the Working Group in light of the significance of the topic.

10. I remain committed to working closely with all delegations and I look forward to receiving their ideas and input in the coming intersessional period.

This concludes my oral report. Thank you.