

Statement by

Ali Nasimfar, Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement
Before the Sixth Committee
74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On Agenda Item 84:
“The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction”
New York, 15 October 2019

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement continues to follow with high interest the agenda item 87 entitled “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”. The Movement reiterates its call upon all States to take this opportunity to reflect on this issue and consider its various aspects with a view to identifying its scope and limits of application, and to prevent any inappropriate resort to it.

The Movement also takes note of the Secretary-General's report, contained in document ~~A/74/144~~ prepared pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 73/208 on the basis of

information and observations received from Governments and relevant observers.

The Non-Aligned Movement firmly believes that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the sovereign equality of States as well as their political independence and non-interference in internal affairs of other States, should be strictly observed in any judicial proceedings. In this regard, the involvement of incumbent high-ranking officials should be dealt with in conformity with international law. The exercise of criminal jurisdiction by national courts, by invoking universal jurisdiction, over high-ranking officials who enjoy

immunity under international law, violates the sovereignty of States, which is one of the most fundamental principles of international law. The Movement submits, therefore, that the immunity of the States officials, which is deeply rooted in the Charter of the United Nations and firmly

Universal jurisdiction provides a tool to prosecute the perpetrators of certain serious crimes under international treaties. Nonetheless, there are questions and controversies concerning universal jurisdiction, including the range of crimes falling under this jurisdiction as well as the conditions for its application. The Non-Aligned Movement is alarmed about the implications of the extension of universal jurisdiction on the immunity of States officials and consequently on

the sovereignty of the States concerned. The invocation of universal jurisdiction against some