



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 69TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 84: THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION
OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION**

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Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania supports the continued discussions of the agenda item entitled "*the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction*" within the framework of the Sixth Committee. It is indeed a relevant initiative in advancing the discussion on the principle of universal jurisdiction.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statements made by the distinguished delegates of South Africa and Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non Aligned Movement, respectively.

We also welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on this item.

Mr. Chairman,

The sensitivity and appropriateness of the discussion on the principle of universal jurisdiction is such that we must seek to eventually attain a sufficient mechanism that will cater for universality of application differentiated from a selectivity of application. It is important to note that even at our discussions here that the precise scope of universal jurisdiction varies from country to country. The discussions and written comments submitted by member states clearly show that, there are still divergent views on the conditions for the exercise of the principle of universal jurisdiction, in principle and practice. As States, we must therefore find common grounds on how we implement it as an international legal principle capable of uniformly guiding our national courts in prosecuting perpetrators of International human rights. There is a need also to clarify the rights and obligations of States under this important principle to minimise potential for its misuse.

My delegation believes that universal jurisdiction cannot supercede the principles of territoriality, sovereignty and Sovereign equality of States, while at the same time ensuring that it remains a key instrument to fight against impunity.

As such, any application of "the principle of universal jurisdiction" must respect the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the sovereign equality and political independence of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Care should also be made so that its application does not violate the immunities granted under international law to Heads of State, diplomatic personnel and other serving high-ranking officials.

Mr. Chairman,

The ongoing discussions in the Sixth Committee are thus far going in the right direction. We commend Costa Rica for chairing this Committee's working group on universal jurisdiction and welcome discussions within the working group, which will help to bring more clarity to the subject in a more transparent and inclusive manner.

At some point too, it may be fitting to have inputs from the International Law Commission as we go forward with this discussion. Ultimately, member States' agreement on the way forward must remain the linchpin on which we base the eventual conclusion of this important matter.

In conclusion, it is important for States to agree on a definition of universal jurisdiction and distinguish it from other concepts such as international criminal jurisdiction, the obligation to extradite or prosecute, as well as other related principles and rules of international law.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.