The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations, and, with reference to the Latter’s Note no: LA/COD/59/1 dated 13 December 2017, in relation to the General Assembly resolution 72/120 of 7 December 2017, entitled “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction” has the honour to submit the following information on Turkey’s national legislation:

Universal jurisdiction, in criminal matters, is regulated in Article 13 of the Turkish Penal Code. According to the Article, Turkish law will apply for the following crimes, if they are committed abroad by a Turkish citizen or a foreign national:

- Crimes, of which the prosecution depends on the request by the Ministry of Justice: genocide, crimes against humanity, migrant smuggling, torture, crimes against relations with foreign states, intentional pollution, production and trade of narcotics or psychotropic substances; facilitation of the use of narcotics or psychotropic substances; counterfeiting of money; manufacturing and trading of instruments used in the production of money and valuable seals; counterfeiting of seals; prostitution; seizing control or hijacking of air, sea or rail transport vehicles and offences relating to the damaging of such vehicles;

- Crimes, of which prosecution can be done proprio motu: crimes against the sovereignty insignia of the State and against the respectability of its organs; crimes against the security of the State, crimes against the constitutional order and the functioning of that order; crime against national defence; crimes involving State secrets and espionage.

On the other hand, according to Articles 11 (crimes committed by nationals) and 12 (crimes committed by foreign nationals) of the Turkish Penal Code, crimes committed abroad and punishable by at least one year of imprisonment will be tried according to Turkish law.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 8 May 2018

Office of Legal Affairs
Secretariat of the United Nations
New York