

Annex to the note verbal no. (30183) dated /4/2021 concerning GA Resolution 75/142 “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”

Translated from Arabic

Observations of the State of Qatar on General Assembly resolution 75/142, on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

- The principle of universal jurisdiction is a basic mechanism for preventing and criminalizing grave violations of international humanitarian law. It means that national courts should exercise jurisdiction under international law over grave crimes affecting the fundamental interests of society.
 - The advantage of adopting the principle is that State that do so are welcomed and commended by the victims of such crimes, by international human rights organizations, and by the international community. Such a position is deemed to be a positive step towards the practical application of measures to uphold human rights.
 - Qatar has signed a number of international conventions in which the principle, spirit and nature of universal criminal jurisdiction are asserted. These include the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).
 - The following are among the most significant provisions under Qatari law that extend universal criminal jurisdiction beyond the country’s borders in a manner that converges with the spirit and nature of the principle of universal criminal jurisdiction: the Criminal Code (Act No. 11 (2004), as amended), the Counter-Terrorism Act (Act No. 27 (2019)), the Anti-Money-Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Act (Act No. 20 (2019) and the Combating Human Trafficking Act (Act No. 15 (2011)).
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