



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN

**Statement of the Republic of Estonia
At the General Debate of the 72st Session of the UN General Assembly Sixth
Committee**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Estonian delegation, we would like to present some comments on the issue of the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction to which Estonia attaches particular importance at this year's session of the Sixth Committee.

We take note with appreciation of the recent report by the Secretary General (document A/770/110) and we would like to thank the countries that have provided

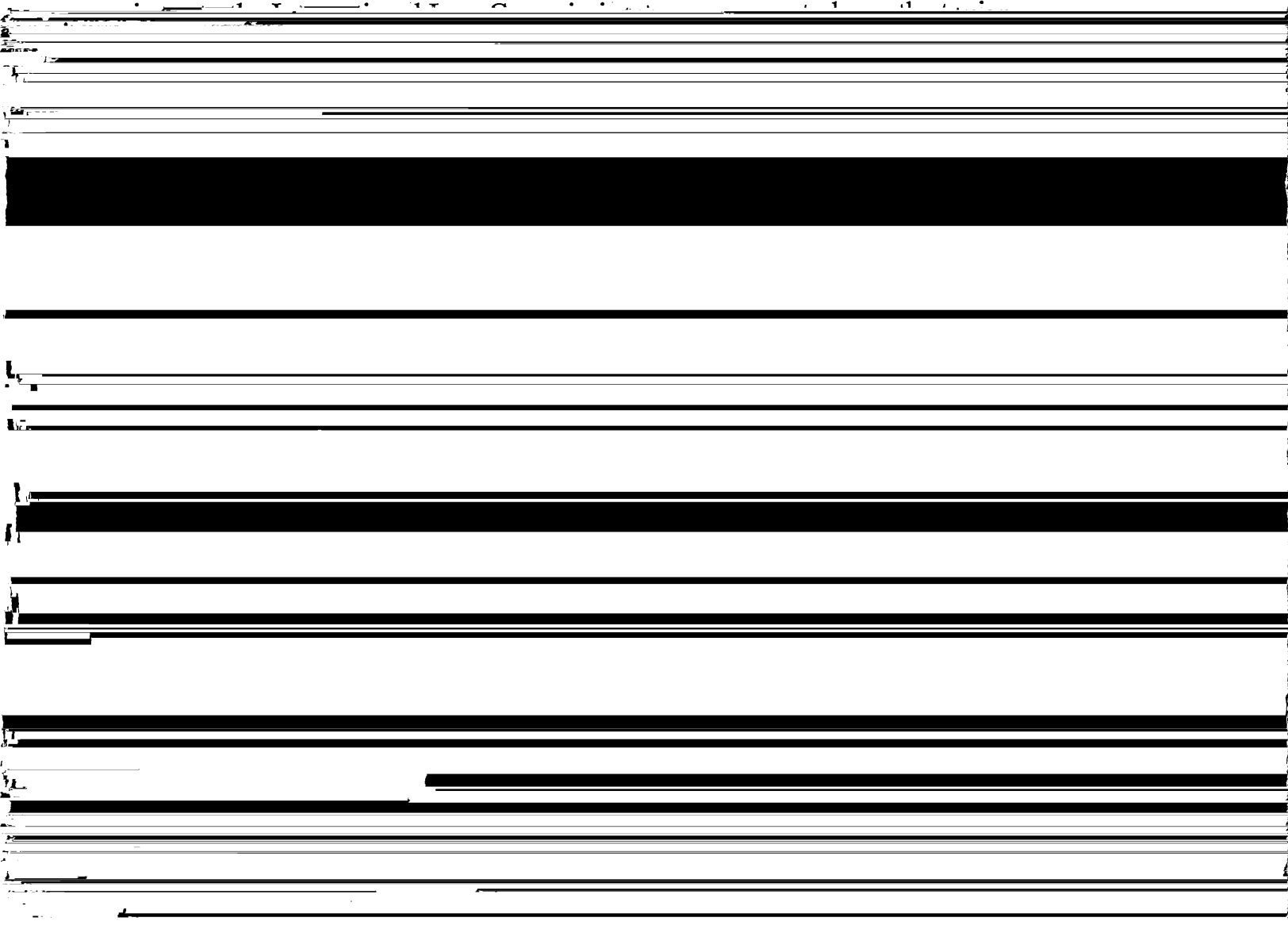
information regarding the scope of their respective provisions of criminal law, which

apparent that conditions or guidelines for the application of the principle are called for. Exchanging national experiences is of utmost importance in this context.

Mr Chairman,

Lastly, Estonia would like to draw attention to the regulation in force in the Estonian Penal Code. Section 8 states that regardless of the law of the place of commission of an act, the penal law of Estonia shall apply to any acts committed outside the territory of Estonia if punishability of the act arises from an international obligation binding on Estonia.

We agree with previous suggestions by some states that it may be wise to refer the



We welcome continued debates in the field and will continue to follow these closely. The use of universal jurisdiction can serve as an effective mechanism to ensure accountability and limit impunity. Prevention and prosecution of serious violations of international law are the moral duties of all States.