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STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda item 86: Scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

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Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union on this agenda item, and would like to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset we would like to thank the Secretary General for his report on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction and all Member States and observers for their contributions.

Although there is currently no accepted definition of the principle of universal jurisdiction, it could be described as criminal jurisdiction based solely on the nature of the crime, as distinct from the traditional bases of jurisdiction, which typically require some type of territorial, nationality or other connection between the State exercising the jurisdiction and the conduct at issue.

The principle of universal jurisdiction is a unique ground of jurisdiction in international law that permits States to exercise national criminal jurisdiction over certain crimes in the interest of the international community as a whole, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, slavery and torture, among others.

national courts, which have primary jurisdiction over crimes occurring within their respective territories.

In recent years, the principle of universal jurisdiction has increasingly been invoked by States in the fight against impunity for the most In

By clarifying fundamental concepts and elements of universal jurisdiction under international law, there is less risk that States would either infringe the sovereignty of another State or decline to exercise their criminal jurisdiction due to misunderstanding of its application.

Finally, the international community as a whole must step together as one to promote the cause of justice by acting against individuals who may not otherwise be held accountable, particularly in cases of crimes that shock the conscience of all humanity.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.