

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

Comments of the Republic of El Salvador on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Report pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/118

25 April 2022

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/118 entitled *The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction*, in which the Assembly invited States to submit information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties and their national legal rules and judicial practice.

Universal jurisdiction is a legal institution of international law that plays a role in combating impunity for serious violations of human rights and crimes against humanity. It is therefore in the interest of national and international actors alike, and their obligation, to thwart, investigate and identify those responsible for such crimes and to punish them in accordance with the law, and to ensure access to justice, truth and full reparation for victims.

El Salvador has a strong normative foundation and case law to enable the recognition and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction at the national level.

For example, under article 10 of the Criminal Code in force since 1998, national criminal law may be applied regardless of the place where the crime was committed or the individuals involved, provided that the crime affects internationally protected property or seriously undermines universally recognized human rights.

At the international level, El Salvador has signed and ratified a number of treaties and other legal instruments related to the protection of human rights. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and, more recently, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, ratified by the legislature on 26 November 2015.

