

Statement by H.E. Archbishop Bernardito Auza
Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See

Seventy-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee Agenda Item 85:
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Mr. Chair,

My delegation begins from the premise that universal jurisdiction , if it is well understood and respects the principle of subsidiarity , has the potential to serve the common good and to reinforce the protection of peoples. It could be an important tool to ensr(topaoTp)6J-0.000.00 tonta (i)l

Mr. Chair,

It is likewise important to safeguard the principle of universal jurisdiction from improper uses or ends. One such safeguard would be ensuring that its application take place in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international legal norms, including the sovereignty of States and national territorial integrity. The use of universal jurisdiction to further political or ideological goals, or merely to intervene in the internal affairs of other States, would disregard principles of international law, including the sovereign equality of States. Such misuse of the principle would only bring the principle of universal jurisdiction into disrepute.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation will continue to follow with great interest the Committee's discussions on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, g