



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
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**STATEMENT BY MR NATHANIEL KHNG,
DELEGATE TO THE 73RD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
ON AGENDA ITEM 87,
ON THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE
OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION,
SIXTH COMMITTEE
10 OCTOBER 2018**

[Please check against delivery]

1 Thank you Mr Chair. We would like to start by thanking the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item.

2 The principle of universal jurisdiction is based on a recognition that some crimes are so serious, and of such exceptional gravity, that their commission shocks the conscience of all humanity. The international community has the shared responsibility to combat such crimes, and to support the global commitment to combat impunity.

3 Mr Chair, Singapore's views on this topic are well-known and we do not intend to repeat them at length today. Instead, allow us to reiterate four points that we consider particularly pertinent:

- (a) First, universal jurisdiction does not apply to all crimes. It is reserved for certain crimes whose abhorrent nature merits its application. In determining whether universal jurisdiction is applicable to a crime, and in line with established rules for identifying customary international law, we must conscientiously analyse State practice and *opinio juris*.
- (b) Second, universal jurisdiction is not and should not be the primary basis for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction. It is a last resort. Universal jurisdiction is intended to complement, and not supplant, other bases of jurisdiction under international law. Such bases include the territoriality and nationality principles.

