

## **STATEMENT**

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations  
Agenda Item 84: The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction  
Sixth Committee

78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
13 October 2023, Trusteeship Council  
UN Headquarters New York

Thank you, Mr Chair.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement.

We thank the Secretary General for his report to the Assembly reviewing the submissions of Member States and relevant observers as well as views expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee identifying possible convergences and divergences on the definition, scope and application of universal jurisdiction.

Universal jurisdiction, as a generally accepted principle of international law, is considered part of Philippine law, both through the incorporation clause of our Constitution and through the enactment in 2009 of the Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity.

We wish to share the following views:

First, for the Philippines the general rule is that jurisdiction is territorial. Universal jurisdiction is, thus, an exception, grounded on the imperative need to preserve international order. It allows any State to assert criminal jurisdiction over certain offenses, even if the act occurred outside its territory or was committed by a person not its national, or inflicted no injury to its nationals.

## Relative Motion of the United Kingdom

