



The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations and the Auschwitz Institute for peace and reconciliation, invite you to the following events:

**The Promise (and Pitfalls) of Universal Jurisdiction**

Wednesday 9 May 2018  
1:15pm – 2:45 pm  
UN HQ Conference Room B

and

**A Way Forward on Universal Jurisdiction**

Wednesday 16 May 2018  
1:15pm – 2:45 pm  
UN HQ Conference room 8

Please confirm your attendance to the following link: <http://tiny.cc/38dvsy>

*\*A light lunch will be provided prior to both events from 12.45 to 1.15pm in the ramp in front of the Vienna Cafe*

**Background**

The item “Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction” was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in 2009, at the request of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of African States. The Assembly has been considering this item since 2010 and discussions have been extensive during this period following a roadmap developed by the Working Group.

At its 71<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee established a working group pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/119 to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

From the discussions undertaken last October and November, on the future consideration of the agenda item, a number of delegations acknowledged that there are benefits of continued discussions on this topic within the Sixth Committee and the Working Group. Other delegations questioned, whether any real progress could be achieved on this topic in the Sixth Committee and it was suggested that the agenda item should only be examined every two years. It was further observed that discussions of the issue also in other fora, may contribute to the advancement of the work. Furthermore, others supported the proposal that a study from the



International Law Commission could be requested on this topic. Moreover, some still consider that the Sixth Committee could make substantial contributions to this topic.

From the discussions held last year, there does not appear to be consensus with regards to the advancement of our discussions. It is for this reason that Costa Rica considers, it could be beneficial to take the opportunity of the International Law Commission's session in New York in the month of May to have informal academic discussions with some of the International Law Commission members, that could help provide delegations with different views on the way forward.

The aim of the first event is to offer an academic overview on the concept of Universal Jurisdiction and to foster a discussion with the attendees. The event on May 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on discussing possible ways forward on the discussions for the upcoming years in the framework of the Sixth Committee on the topic.

### **Agenda for**

### ***“The Promise (and pitfalls) of Universal Jurisdiction”***

**Wednesday 9 May 2018 1:15pm – 2:45 pm**

**UN HQ Conference Room B**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

- Ms. Shara Duncan Villalobos, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Scope and application of the principle of Universal Jurisdiction for the 71<sup>st</sup> session
- Rob Scharf, Director of Communications, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

#### **Keynote Speakers**

- Prof. Patricia Galvão Teles, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Charles C. Jalloh, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- Mariana Salazar Albornoz, Coordinator for Public International Law at the Office of Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

#### **Q&A Session**

#### **Closing Remarks**



## Agenda for

***“A Way Forward on Universal Jurisdiction”***  
**Wednesday 16 May 2018 1:15pm – 2:45 pm**  
**UN HQ Conference Room 8**

### Welcome Remarks

- Ms. Shara Duncan Villalobos, Chairperson of the Working Group for the 71<sup>st</sup> session
- Rob Scharf, Director of Communications, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

### Panelists

- Prof. Patricia Galvão Teles, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Charles C. Jalloh, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Dire Tladi, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Pavel Šturma, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo, Member, International Law Commission
- H.E. Mahmoud Hmoud, Member, International Law Commission

### Interactive Discussion

### Closing Remarks

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