



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## Statement by Mr. CHOI, Yonghoon

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Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

### Item 78 : Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report, A/68/213, on “Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission.”

Criminal Accountability is the cornerstone of the Rule of Law. To uphold this vital principle, the UN and all Member States should make every effort together to seek justice and to end impunity.

The Republic of Korea is convinced that bringing UN personnel who committed a crime into justice is a crucial part of our ongoing fight against impunity. If such serious violations are not prosecuted through an appropriate procedure, the United Nations may create the false signal that its officials and experts can improperly abuse immunities for the sole purpose of their private benefit. The recurring misuses of their immunities could bring about serious institutional damage to the credibility and impartiality of the UN itself.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to note with appreciation that the Office of Legal Affairs referred the cases of 9 United Nations Officials to States of nationality for investigation and possible prosecution this year. My delegation would like to emphasize that the States of nationality should take the necessary steps forward, including thorough investigation in cooperation with the United Nations.

Our delegation is also of the view that it is important for the States of nationality to periodically inform the Office of the Legal Affairs of ongoing progress. This should include the details of their legal procedure, as well as the final results of cases within their jurisdiction. In this context, we welcome that three States to which referrals were made had contacted the OLA to note that the matter had been raised with relevant officials. In addition, we also would like to highlight that the United Nations has made efforts to prevent illegal retaliations and restore the reputation of those who were under false accusations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea believes that one of the most important goals of today's debate lies in the prevention of possible crimes committed by UN personnel. My delegation would like to voice our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts and the practical measures described in the concluding portion of his report. This includes strengthening existing training on United Nations standards of conduct by such means as pre-deployment and in-mission induction training.

My delegation believes that not only is it the Secretary-General's duty, but also the responsibility of Member States to make a concerted effort to prevent such offenses. In this regard, we would like to emphasize the value of discipline and the importance of training prior to deployment, especially as performed by each Member state.

For example, the Republic of Korea provides a three-month intensive training course to the selected personnel for Peacekeeping Operations. They have been chosen through an extremely rigorous process among many able soldiers, and are in fact inspired by the enhancement of professional ethics that this fortified training program provides.

My delegation believes that both the United Nations and each Member State must do their utmost alongside each other to end impunity and to prevent crimes committed by United Nations Officials and Experts. Indeed, the Organization's ultimate reputation relies on our collective efforts.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.