



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand

to the United Nations

before the Sixth Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Agenda Item 78: Criminal accountability of United Nations
officials and experts on mission**

New York, 16 October 2013

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Mr. Chair,

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Criminal accountability is a fundamental component of adherence to the rule of law. It requires that all persons be held accountable for their actions, regardless of their role or status. As a troop-contributing country in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, Thailand attaches the highest importance to the urgent need to tackle both existing and potential jurisdictional gaps, which allow UN personnel who commit serious crimes to escape justice. Thailand reiterates our conviction that the rule of law must be fully applied to the United Nations and its personnel. Therefore, my delegation strongly supports the policy of zero tolerance and calls upon all Member States to ensure criminal accountability of the United Nations official and experts on mission.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item. The information submitted by Member States as well as the information on the Secretariat's activities is indispensable for member states to understand the situation on the ground. Our appreciation also goes to the UN efforts in providing technical advice and support to Member States in revising their domestic laws to allow for the necessary investigation and prosecution. We also support the existing pre-deployment and in-mission training programmes which promote compliance with the United Nations' codes of conduct. These efforts have resulted in a decrease in the number of allegations of crimes involving sexual abuse, violence and exploitation against women and children in the past year.

Thailand wishes to express our appreciation to the effort of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for their assistance in the pre-deployment training of Thai

troops who are now operating in various peacekeeping missions. Such training indeed ensures that our officials and experts are adequately informed of and comply with international standards.

In addition, we support the effort of host states and other troop-contributing states to cooperate under the regimes of existing treaties and other arrangement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. This is the only way to ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

In this connection, one of the possible ways to ensure the successful prosecution of these crimes is for States to adopt a more flexible test for satisfaction of the double criminality rule. In this regard, States should not focus on the terminology or the constituent elements of the offence, which may differ from one legal system to another, but rather on the totality of the acts or omissions alleged against the person whose extradition is sought.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation further encourages the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion justly and reasonably in waiving immunity where such immunity could impede the course of justice.

In conclusion, Thailand commends the vast majority of UN officials and experts on missions. Their dedication and sacrifice in maintaining world peace and security and in promoting the transition from conflict to relief and development cannot be stressed enough. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to their sacrifices and valuable contribution towards the fulfillment of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Thank you.