



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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ON

**CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS
OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON MISSION**

AT SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETING, NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2014

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Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for convening this important debate and I thank the Secretary-General for his Report that is before us for consideration today. Nigeria aligns herself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

2. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the report before us contains information received from Governments on the extent to which jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature, which is committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, is established under their national laws. We also note that the report provides information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of such individuals. We commend the initiative of dedicating sections of the report to information on the activities within the secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Criminal acts, in particular, serious crimes such as sexual exploitation and abuse, committed by officials and experts while on mission have detrimental and negative effects on the image,

credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. For this and other reasons, Nigeria commends the zero-tolerance policy of the UN concerning criminal conduct (especially sexual exploitation and abuse) committed by UN personnel and experts on Mission.

4. Nigeria supports the current procedure that allows the Police of a troop contributing Member State to exercise authority over her erring national that is on UN Mission. Therefore, Nigeria welcomes the referrals by the United Nations of cases of alleged criminal conduct to the State of nationality of the official or expert on mission concerned, for investigation and possible prosecution, and urges States to report to the organization on steps taken thereafter. To this effect, Nigeria encourages States to take necessary steps to prosecute their nationals for any offence committed while on mission, if necessary by adapting their national legislation to guarantee that the jurisdiction would be exercised.

Mr. Chairman,

5. My delegation commends the departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support for their awareness-raising activities for personnel serving in the field missions. We also commend the initiative of developing an accountability framework to measure

the performance of field missions in connection with a number of indicators relating to conduct and discipline. We noted in the report that as part of the accountability framework, field missions will be requested to report on a quarterly basis on their performance, including in meeting expectations relating to the indicators. In this regard, we support other practical measures to strengthen existing training on UN standards of conduct, including through pre-deployment and in-mission induction training. Nigeria also calls on Member States to cooperate with the UN in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecutions.

6. I thank you.