

Algeria



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Check against delivery

70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Statement by

Mr. Mehdi REMAOUN

First Secretary

to

**The Sixth Committee on “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and
experts on mission”**

[Agenda Item 80]

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 16 October 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor,

I would like to thank the United Nations Secretary General for his report to be considered under this agenda item entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”, contained in document A/70/208.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the African Group and by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the commitment of the Secretary-General to pursue the implementation of his zero tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by United Nations staff members and related personnel. We are also satisfied of the General Assembly’s endorsement of the steps outlined in the last Secretary-General’s special measures report to further implement the zero tolerance.

At the same time, my delegation expresses its concern over the persistence of cases and instances of sexual exploitation and abuses. We are even more preoccupied by the increase of these acts that are damageable not only for the victims but also for the image and credibility of the United Nations. It is crucial to avoid that the UN action becomes a source of further suffering to the people it is supposed to serve. This is why our work under this agenda item is the more urgent, bearing in mind that UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations today comprise a record of more than 128,000 people, spread over 39 missions.

Mr. Chairman,

We have expressed our support to all the measures initiated by the Secretary General, in particular his intent to impose strong sanctions against those who commit acts of misconduct and those who fail to take action against them, including mission leadership and command authorities.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of Standing Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) Task Forces in most peace operations, hoping that it would be possible to achieve

as soon as possible the objective of setting up teams of immediate response to gather and preserve evidence, within 72 hours of receipt of an allegation.

We also appreciate the dissemination to missions, in early 2016, of a detailed guidance to missions on standards and procedures for alerting UN Headquarters on instances of criminal misconduct by civilian, military or police personnel. It is a positive step to refer such cases to judicial authorities of host countries and, where relevant, the contributing country, for pursuit of criminal accountability under national law.

In this regard, my delegation stands ready to cooperate in order to conclude the pending discussion, since 2006, on a proposed international convention to ensure accountability of UN personnel in connection with crimes committed in peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

Strengthening prevention requires constant awareness-raising and training. My delegation welcomes the implementation of preventive and practical measures adopted by field missions and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through pre-deployment and in-mission induction training.

Prevention also implies to disseminate lessons learned that could be extended to regional other organizations like the African Union. In that regard, let me recall one of the three priorities sets out by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “The Future of UN Peace”, where he articulated the need for stronger regional-global partnerships, including with the African Union. The report indicates that steps are taken with the African Union Commission to finalize a Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. In this context and bearing in mind the purpose of close partnership, my delegation suggests reflecting on the best way to capitalize the work in progress here through future cooperation with relevant regional organizations, such as the the African Union.

I thank you.