



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

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Statement

By

Representative of Thailand

before the Sixth Committee

of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 80:

**Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and
experts on mission**

New York, 16 October 2015

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, the Kingdom of Thailand would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/70/208, presenting information received from Member States, as well as information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations and information on activities within the Secretariat, which provides a good basis for States to build upon in their deliberations of this agenda item, with the view to achieving our common goal of ending impunity.

Mr. Chairman,

Criminal accountability is one of the core elements to prove the existence of the rule of law. Regardless of roles and status, one must take responsibility over their own actions. Impunity undoubtedly undermines integrity, credibility and effectiveness of the UN and its peacekeeping operations.

In this connection, the Kingdom of Thailand actively participated in the Summit on Peacekeeping convened by the United States Mission in September and is committed to the Declaration of Leaders affirming that proper conduct by and discipline over, all personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations are vital to their effectiveness and reaffirming the support for the UN zero tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is proud of our long history of contribution to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. Over 20,000 Thai military and police personnel, men and women, have served in more than 20 peacekeeping and related missions of the United Nations since Thailand joined the UN in 1946. During this year peacekeeping summit, we pledged to further contribute staff officers and engineering units with expertise on livelihood development and construction, a groundwater well-drilling team and a Level-2 hospital to participate in future UN peace operations. Let me reiterate the Royal Thai Government's strong commitment to honour and fulfil our pledge.

As a troop-contributing country, Thailand is of the view that the comprehension of peacekeepers of their mandates and status is crucial. Thailand, therefore, reiterates the importance of pre-deployment training and in-mission induction, concerning, in particular, the obligation to respect the UN standards of conduct and the obligation for all UN personnel to observe the laws of the host states. In this regard, Thailand appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support for providing technical supports in pre-deployment training of Thai officials and polices to comply with international standard.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand actively advocates the link between women, peace and security. We support the increasing role and quality participation of women in peacekeeping operations – from mediation to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict development. Thailand has contributed a number of female peacekeepers, the majority of which have been mandated to work on gender-based violence and in promoting preventive and protective measures for vulnerable women and girls. Women peacekeepers have crucial role to play in supporting survivors and witnesses. In addition, the natural tendency of victimized women to open up to female peacekeepers will help increase the ratio of incidents being reported and decrease the number of unpunished criminal conducts.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand calls upon States to consider establishing jurisdiction over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials and experts on mission. Additionally, Thailand supports the Secretary-General's efforts to exercise his discretion to waive the immunity of the alleged officials to prevent the escape from justice. We also strongly support cooperation among States and between States and the UN in this respect as this is the only way to effectively prosecute the offenders, secure justice and end impunity.

Mr. Chairman,

Before ending my remarks, Thailand would like to take this opportunity to recognize the strong determination, dedication and sacrifice of the UN officials and experts on missions. These personnel work effectively to drive the principles and purposes of the UN Charter into practice. Their hard work and vigorous efforts have been paid off and proved imminent in maintaining global peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman