



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

INVITATION

Panel discussion on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission: Stocktaking and Way Forward

Thursday, 13 October 2016, 1.15-2.45 pm
UN, Conference Room 6

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland would like to invite to a panel discussion on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission: Stocktaking and Way Forward.

Nearly ten years after the Sixth Committee took up the subject-matter of criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission and on the heels of resurging media coverage of widespread sexual abuse in recent UN operations, the last report of the Secretary-General on the agenda item addressed to the Sixth Committee (A/71/167), suggests that, despite various efforts and a commitment of the Secretary-General to the fight against impunity at all levels, accountability for crimes committed by UN staff and experts on mission, is far from being ensured.

Recent reports and reviews also addressed issues of criminal accountability for offences committed by UN personnel, notably the report of the High Level Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95) and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the panel's recommendations (A/70/357), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/70/729). Much of the focus was on uniformed personnel and on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. Accountability for all types of crimes, including financial crimes, and for all UN staff, has been less explored in a coherent and systematic manner in the UN system. In accordance with its mandate, the Sixth Committee does have a role in discussing and devising concrete options in this regard.

This panel discussion is intended to shed light on the different initiatives and efforts that are ongoing within the United Nations and to take stock of the actions taken at this point in the Sixth Committee, particularly in the implementation of the recommendations, made in the above mentioned reports and in the 2006 report of the Group of Legal Experts (A/60/980). Such recommendations include fostering the exercise of jurisdiction by States other than the host State in certain circumstances, strengthening thorough and professional investigations and ensuring a proper coordination among the various units of the United Nations dealing with misconduct issues. So far, it appears that the discussion in the Sixth Committee focused on the development of an international convention. Other measures that might be considered in the immediate future have received less attention.

Moderator : Ambassador **Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN

Panelists : **Mr. Stephen Mathias**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

Mr. Larry D. Johnson, Adjunct Professor, Columbia Law School

Ms. Lynne Goldberg, Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Please RSVP to Ms Gabriela Potts (gabriela.potts@eda.admin.ch) by 11 October 2016.