

Algeria



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة

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71th 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 75]

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 7th October 2016

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on consideration under this agenda item entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”, contained in document A/71/167.

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

Distinguished delegates,

I want to express Algeria’s deep appreciation for the great sacrifices of United Nations peacekeepers.

However, we observe that the persistence of sexual exploitation and abuse by a minority of peacekeepers undermines the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, as well as the credibility and the image of the United Nations peacekeeping missions.

In this regard, my delegation’s welcomes the adoption by the Security Council last March, of the resolution 2272, under which the Council endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to repatriate a particular military unit or formed police unit of a contingent when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by that unit.

Nevertheless, repatriation is not sufficient and does not represent a sanction, Member States must take appropriate actions to hold national offenders accountable.

Distinguished delegates,

As indicated in the Secretary-General’s report on “Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” (A/70/729), immediate response teams were finally established in peacekeeping missions to gather and preserve evidence, pending the initiation of an investigation. This was outlined in his last year’s report entitled “The future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations” (A/70/357). Algeria welcomes this step forward and the continued work to improve the speed and quality of investigations. Urgent action upon receipt of a report of sexual exploitation and abuse creates certainly the best conditions for investigation.

Moreover, we would like to reiterate our concerns on alleged crimes of United Nations officials and experts on allegations of corruption and other financial crimes.

In this respect, we reaffirm our support for the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations with regard to criminal conduct, in particular such serious crimes as sexual exploitation and abuse, financial fraud and corruption committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission.

Distinguished delegates,

Strengthening prevention requires constant awareness-raising and training. My delegation expresses its continued support to the implementation of preventive and practical measures adopted by field missions, 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.

In conclusion, Algeria reiterates its readiness to cooperate in order to conclude pending discussions, for the last 10 years, on the proposed international convention on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

I thank you.