



STATEMENT

by

**Ms. Lizanne Aching
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**On Behalf of the Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)**

on

**Agenda Item 75: Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and
Experts on Mission**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM also aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/71/167 on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

Mr. Chairman,

Guided by the core objective of maintaining peace and security, CARICOM recognises the significant contributions and sacrifices of United Nations (UN) experts and officials on mission to, among other things, manage complex crises that pose a threat of peace and security, prevent and manage violent conflict between and within States, and to facilitate the political process through promoting dialogue and reconciliation and supporting the establishment of legitimate and effective institutions of governance.

In our very region, the CARICOM Member State of Haiti has benefitted immensely from the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which has assisted Haitian authorities in such areas as electoral support, the strengthening of the rule of law, the promotion of justice and the training of Haitian National Police.

Mr. Chairman,

While CARICOM recognizes the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfillment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, we are also cognizant of the need to bring to justice those persons who violate international law, including international human rights law and international refugee law and the rule of law.

Indeed the privileges and immunities afforded to UN officials and experts on mission to facilitate their effective functioning come with the concomitant duty to fully respect the laws of the host State as well as the UN standards of conduct. Further, pursuant to resolution 70/11, CARICOM

underscores the importance of ensuring that all UN officials and experts on mission behave in a manner which preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM continues to be concerned over allegations of misconduct and sexual abuse of women and children at UN peacekeeping missions. We consider the incidence of sexual exploitation at peacekeeping missions profoundly disturbing, especially since the UN has been mandated to provide assistance to States which are in the process of rehabilitation in the aftermath of conflicts. The exploitation of the most vulnerable by persons sent to protect them is a fundamental betrayal of trust, which is further compounded when the perpetrators are not brought to justice.

We, therefore, welcome the commitment of the UN Secretary General to refer credible allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse to the Member States of the UN officials or experts on mission for appropriate action. In this vein and with a view to preventing impunity and ensuring that those found guilty of committing such offenses are brought to justice, it is important for States, which have not yet done so, to establish jurisdiction over crimes committed by nationals while serving at peacekeeping missions. We firmly believe that the perpetrators of these most heinous offenses must be held accountable for their actions.

Further, pursuant to resolution 70/114, we urge States to cooperate, where necessary, in providing assistance with criminal investigations or extradition proceedings with respect to crimes of a serious nature committed by UN officials and experts on mission as well as in ensuring the protection of victims. CARICOM also underlines the need to ensure that all suspected cases of misconduct or criminal offences are reported.

In this regard, we wish to commend those States which have cooperated with the UN in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of individuals found guilty of serious crimes as well as in ensuring the protection of witnesses and victims, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary General on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with resolution 70/114, we underline the need to ensure that all personnel are properly vetted by contributing States and the UN for any prior cases of misconduct while serving on previous missions. It is also important to provide appropriate training and

sensitization to UN personnel on the need to respect the national laws of the host State and UN standards of conduct. Further, all UN officials and experts on mission should be made aware of possible consequences should such laws and standards not be obeyed. In this vein, we wish to commend the UN for its efforts in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM also commends the Secretary General for promoting a zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel.

In closing, we reiterate the importance of abiding by the principles of international law, due process and applicable UN rules and regulations, when dealing with any allegation of misconduct or criminal offense committed by UN personnel on mission.

I thank you.