

Trusteeship Chamber Council

Statement by:

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**SIXTH COMMITTEE: CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF
UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON
MISSION (item 75)**

United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chairman,

Israel is appreciative for this opportunity to once again engage in a discussion on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials, and experts on mission. Israel also welcomes the General Assembly Resolution 70/114, and thanks the Secretary General for his recent Report A/71/167.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel attaches great importance to this matter, and to the development of appropriate legal instruments for preventing impunity and promoting accountability. UN officials, and experts on mission who commit serious crimes must be investigated and prosecuted appropriately, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and of the UN under international law, in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process.

The development of such legal instruments will serve to strengthen the public image of the UN, especially with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the host country. Failure to adjudicate serious crimes may adversely affect and undermine the United Nations mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

While Israel appreciates the progress made in this regard, we look forward to seeing how the different States will develop their national legislation to ensure the criminal accountability of their nationals serving on UN missions. Israel also urges Member States to take appropriate action to ensure that such crimes are not met with impunity. Member States' actions in this regard could be more efficient if met with willingness on behalf of the UN to investigate allegations against UN officials, or experts on mission, and cooperation with the authorities of the Member State where the events took place.

Israel wishes to note that in cases where UN officials, and experts on mission, are indeed entitled to immunity from jurisdiction, it is an important complementary element that UN authorities make efforts to reach just solutions outside of the local tribunals, including settlements with the victims of the offense, in order to facilitate domestic public interests, especially in cases involving death or serious injury.

Israel also welcomes the United Nations decision to urge the Secretary-General to continue to take other practical measures within his authority in order to strengthen existing training regarding United Nations standards of conduct.

In addition, it is proposed to establish a mechanism allowing the Security Council to examine the State's participation in UN missions, when that Member State fails to demonstrate a record of investigation and adjudication of serious crimes committed by its nationals.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel hopes that these mutual efforts will raise the awareness of States regarding the principles of proper conduct and crime prevention by their nationals serving in UN missions.

Finally, Israel believes that enhanced cooperation among States, and between States and the UN, serves as a cornerstone for preventing impunity and advancing accountability. Israel urges States to take all necessary measures to develop legal and practical ways to strengthen the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and to prosecute such crimes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.