

Statement by

Ali Nasimfar

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Before the Sixth Committee

71th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on Agenda Item 75:

“Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission”

New York, 6 October 2016

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement takes note of the Report of the secretary general, contained in document A/71/167 containing information submitted by member states on the jurisdiction, cooperation, procedures set up for referral from UN to the state of nationality. We also express our appreciation to the secretariat for holding informal briefings last year as well as on July. As we have expressed on previous occasions, the Non-Aligned Movement attaches great importance to the issue of criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. As we speak, NAM Countries contribute more than 80% of the peace-keeping personnel in the field. The NAM member Countries are the major recipients of these peace-keeping missions, at the same time.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its appreciation for the outstanding contributions and sacrifices of U.N. peacekeepers. The Movement stresses, however, that all UN peacekeeping personnel should

continue to perform their duties in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the United Nations. The NAM emphasizes the importance of maintaining a policy of zero tolerance in addressing all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeeping personnel.

The Non-Aligned Movement takes note of the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee in the framework of a working group on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission during its three sessions held in 2007, 2008 and 2012.

The Non-Aligned Movement looks forward to continuing the consideration in the Sixth Committee of the Report by the Group of Legal Experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed in peacekeeping operations (Document A/60/980), established by the Secretary-General pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 59/300.

We are satisfied with the outcome of the work in the Sixth Committee with regard to international cooperation, which shall further enhance and ensure accountability within the Organization. We Urge the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them, within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

In this sense, we take note of the comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel, which was adopted by the General Assembly resolution 62/214. This Strategy will help to mitigate the sufferings of the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as offer social support, legal services and medical attention, among other things.

Likewise, the Non-Aligned Movement emphasizes the need to implement, without delay, the General Assembly resolution 61/291, which amends the revised draft model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We believe that this process will strengthen accountability mechanisms and contribute to guarantee due process with respect to investigations of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse.

In this connection, we also believe that the full implementation by all Member States of General Assembly resolutions 62/63, 63/119, 64/110 and 65/20 , 66/93 , 67/88, 68/105, 69/114, 70/114 could contribute to bridge up any jurisdictional gaps, if they exist. We encourage member states to exercise their jurisdiction in applicable cases in order to ensure that criminal acts do not go unpunished. Subsequently, an assessment can be undertaken to explore if there is any need for further measures by the General Assembly. The Movement notes that important policy and remedial measures have been agreed but still need to be implemented. We continue to believe that progress in short term measures is also needed.

The Non-Aligned Movement Expresses its concern with respect to all alleged crimes on the part of United Nations officials and experts on

mission, including allegations of corruption and other financial crimes, and in that regard welcomes the reaffirmation by the Secretary-General that there will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations; the movement Urges the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that his zero-tolerance policy for criminal activities, such as sexual exploitation and abuse and corruption, is made known to all United Nations officials and experts on mission at all levels, especially those in managerial positions;

We strongly urge States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice.

The NAM reiterates that it is still premature to discuss a draft convention on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. We believe that for the time being the work of the Committee must focus on substantive matters and leave matters of form for a subsequent stage.