



नेपाल NEPAL

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**Statement by Mr. Raju Guragain, Under Secretary (Law), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal at the Sixth Committee on agenda item 75: Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission
New York, 7 October 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Nepal associates itself with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation would also like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report under this agenda item.

First of all, as the sixth largest troop contributing nation, Nepal would like to recognize the importance of outstanding contribution and invaluable sacrifices of the peacekeepers and other personnel in the UN peacekeeping missions for the purpose of the maintenance of international peace and security while upholding to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. It is critically important that United Nations officials and experts on mission must conduct themselves in a manner which preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. We are of the view that protectors should never become perpetrators.

In fact, criminal accountability is one of the core elements to observe the rule of law whereas the incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse at peacekeeping missions threatens the ideals and values of the rule of law. These heinous acts not only undermine the trust and credibility of the United Nations, but also questions the effectiveness and integrity of the Chief institution which takes pride in working for the promotion of the rule of law; and peace and stability in the world.

We believe that the perpetrators of these heinous offenses should be held accountable for their actions, offenders should be effectively prosecuted and brought into justice. Only then we shall achieve the common goal of ending impunity.

In this regard, Nepal reaffirms its support to the implementation of the policy of zero tolerance in addressing all forms of sexual exploitation cases committed by UN officials or other personnel in the missions. We stress that such acts should be dealt on case by case basis. However, it would be unfair to take an individual's crime to name and shame the entire peacekeeping mission or troops/police contributing nations. Instead, States should urgently establish jurisdiction over crime; and cooperation should be extended to conduct investigation on the allegations and information and communication should be exchanged to verify the charges with the aims of bringing the offenders to justice and providing special protection to the victims and witnesses, particularly women and children.

We would also like to share that Nepal is committed to the principles of fair, impartial and accountable criminal justice system by enacting effective laws on mutual legal assistance and extradition.

We also stress the importance of the triangular relationship between the United Nations Secretariat, Peacekeeping missions and host governments to take immediate actions against such cases of violations.

Likewise, Nepal reiterates the importance of pre-deployment training and in-mission induction on the topics such as conduct and discipline of the UN officials and the experts and the respect to the national law of the host country. In this context, Nepal sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support for conducting such trainings and awareness raising programmes to the peacekeeping personnel.

Keeping in view the fact that the increasing participation of female peacekeepers will help to protect women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse, we welcome the increasing female participation in the UN peacekeeping operations. Nepal has been deploying more female peacekeepers to the extent possible. Nepal has also been implementing UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 for protection of women in conflict and welcomed the UNSC resolution 2272 in this regard.

In conclusion, Nepal would like to reiterate its commitment to bringing criminals to justice, protecting the vulnerable victims and maintaining peace and justice.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.