



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970

---

---

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**TAIWO ABIDOGUN, ESQ  
SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION AND  
PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, ABUJA**

**ON**

**CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS  
AND EXPERTS ON MISSION**

**(Sixth Committee)**

**AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK  
1000 HOURS, 7 OCTOBER 2016**

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation aligns itself with the African Group Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa.

2. Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/71/167 of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 on this agenda item. We note in Section II of the report that it contains information received from governments on the extent to which jurisdiction, in particular over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, is established under their national laws. The focus of Section III is very important as it contains information from governments on the handling of allegations by states that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission. We find Sections IV to VII equally instructive.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. Nigeria has always supported General Assembly resolutions urging States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice. Similarly, on training, we like to note that in line with the provisions of the resolution on this agenda item adopted during the 70<sup>th</sup> Session, Nigeria's personnel and experts on mission have always received appropriate conduct-related training prior to deployment. As announced last year, we look forward to further briefing by the Secretariat on this subject during this Session and we encourage Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period towards devising concrete proposals to ensure accountability.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. As a Troop Contributing Country, Nigeria supports the zero-tolerance policy concerning criminal conduct

committed by UN officials and experts on missions. We believe that criminal acts, in particular, serious crimes such as sexual exploitation and abuse, committed by officials and experts while on mission have detrimental and negative effects on the image, credibility and integrity of the United Nations.

5. For this reason, Nigeria supports referrals by the United Nations of cases of alleged criminal conduct to the State of nationality of the official or expert on Mission concerned, for thorough investigation and possible prosecution where a prima facie case is established. Therefore, Nigeria embraces the current procedure that allows a troop contributing Member State to exercise authority over her erring national on a UN Mission. Consistent with our stance on this, the relevant authorities in Nigeria have always ensured that our nationals who commit crimes on mission do not go unpunished.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. Nigeria welcomes the measures implemented by the UN departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support regarding awareness-raising activities for personnel serving in the field Mission. My delegation also commends the initiative of developing an accountability framework as a yardstick for the performance of field Missions, with a number of indicators relating to conduct and discipline.

7. Furthermore, Nigeria supports other practical steps that could be taken to strengthen existing training programmes on UN code of conduct, through pre-deployment and in-mission induction training. We call on UN Member States to cooperate with the Organization in the exchange of information and timely facilitation of investigations and possible prosecution where investigations reveal that a crime may have been committed.

**I thank you for your attention.**