



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

By

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First Secretary

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before the Sixth Committee

of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 75:

**Criminal Accountability of United Nations officials and
experts on mission**

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At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/71/167. This report is useful for States to build upon their deliberations of this agenda item, with a view to achieving our common goal of ensuring accountability regarding crimes committed by UN officials or experts on mission and ending impunity.

Mr. Chairman,

Criminal accountability is fundamental to promote and sustain the rule of law. Any individual, regardless of role and status, must take legal responsibility for their wrongdoings. Impunity undermines the integrity, credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations particularly its peacekeeping operations. With this perspective, Thailand reaffirmed its commitment in the Declaration of Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping organized on the margin of the last session of the General Assembly. We stressed that proper conduct by, and discipline over, all personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations are vital to their effectiveness. We also reiterate our support for the UN "zero tolerance" policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand has a long history in our contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations. Since our country joined the United Nations in 1946, over 20,000 Thai military and police personnel have served in more than 20 peacekeeping and related missions of the United Nations worldwide. Currently we participate in 4 peacekeeping operations, and we will continue to contribute more in the future. We also support the increasing role and quality participation of women in mediation, peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding and post-conflict development.

As a troop-contributing country, Thailand is of the view that it is crucial for peacekeepers to keep their mandates and status. Hence, we reiterate the significance of pre-deployment training and in-mission induction, especially regarding the obligation to respect UN standards of conduct and to observe the laws of the host states. Thailand appreciates the on-going efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support for providing

technical supports in pre-deployment training of Thai officials and polices to comply with international standard.

Mr. Chairman,

At the national level, Thai law ensures criminal responsibility of our nationals including those serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. The Thai Criminal Code establishes jurisdiction over serious criminal offences committed outside the territory of the Kingdom including those relating to the security of the Kingdom, terrorism and money laundering. Thai law also ensures that offences committed by Thai government or military officers during the course of their official duty outside the territory of the Kingdom of Thailand can be punished within the Kingdom. To end the culture of impunity, Thailand has been cooperating with many countries within the framework of extradition agreements and on the basis of reciprocity. Furthermore, the act of corruption conducted by foreign government officials and international organization officials constitutes an offence according to the Organic Act on Counter Corruption (No.3) B.E. 2558 (2015). In this regard, our legal system reflects the great importance that we attach to accountability to the law and equality before the law.

Mr. Chairman,

We also strongly support cooperation among States and between States and the UN as a way to effectively prosecute offenders, secure justice and end impunity. All States must consider establishing jurisdiction over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials and experts on mission. Additionally, Thailand supports the approach that immunity cannot be used as a shield for alleged officials to escape from justice.

Finally, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to commend the invaluable contribution of UN officials and experts on mission. Their dedication and sacrifice in the maintenance of global peace and security have driven the principles and purposes of the UN Charter into practice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.