

ISRAEL

SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
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Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission

Agenda Item 78

6 October 2017

United Nations, New York

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 thanks the Secretary General for his recent Reports on this matter.

Israel attaches great importance to this matter, and to the development of appropriate legal instruments for preventing impunity and promoting accountability of United Nations Officials, and Experts on Missions. In this respect, Israel is proud to have recently signed the *Compact between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of Israel: Commitment to Eliminate Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. The Compact reflects Israel's recognition of the importance of preventing impunity and promoting accountability for UN personnel who commit crimes, including offenses of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Israel believes that UN officials, and experts on mission who commit serious crimes, including involvement in terror activities and acts which result in fatalities, must be investigated and prosecuted, in accordance with international human rights standards and general principles of criminal law and procedure, including due process and the rights of victims, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and of the UN under applicable international law.

It is Israel's view that the development of legal instruments concerning this matter will serve to strengthen the public image of the UN, especially with respect to its relations with the governments and nationals of host States where the UN operates. Failure to adjudicate serious crimes may adversely affect and undermine the UN reputation, independence and its important and life-saving functions.

Mr. Chairman,

While Israel appreciates the progress made in this regard, we look forward to seeing how the different States develop their national legislation addressing criminal activity of their nationals in 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 by the UN to investigate allegations against UN bodies, officials, or

experts on mission, and to cooperate with the relevant investigative authorities of both the authorities of the Member State where the events took place and with those of the States of nationality of the relevant UN personnel.

Israel wishes to note that in cases where UN personnel are entitled to immunity from jurisdiction, it is an important complementary element that UN authorities make efforts to reach solutions outside of domestic tribunals, such as ex-gratia compensation for victims and undertaking other appropriate voluntary steps, in order to advance domestic public interest, especially in cases involving death or serious injury.

Israel also welcomes the General Assembly's decision of its 71st Session, to urge the Secretary General to continue to take other practical measures within his authority to strengthen existing training regarding UN standards of conduct.

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.

Israel believes that enhanced cooperation among States, and between States and the UN, serves as a cornerstone for preventing impunity and promoting 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 in accordance with applicable international legal obligations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.