

**Statement by Mr. Saad Ahmad Warraich, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of
Pakistan to the United Nations in the Sixth Committee on Agenda Item 80:
“Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission”
(New York, 6 October 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank the Secretary General for his three reports **contained in documents A/72/205, A/72/121 and A/72/126** pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 71/134, in particular Annex I and II of A/72/205, providing additional information on the nature of the allegations and information received from States on all referrals since 1 July 2007 and on notifications received from States with respect to investigations or prosecutions of crimes allegedly committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission since 1 July 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission is important, both as an imperative of justice as well as for the integrity and credibility of the UN as an organization.

The sense of urgency that we see on the subject is therefore, apt and timely. Under no circumstances can the protectors of the vulnerable be allowed to become their abusers. This would be a travesty of justice, morality and above all, of the sacred covenant that UN officials including peacekeepers undertake towards protecting the vulnerable.

At the same time, the actions of a few cannot be allowed to soil the contribution of so many, who continue to serve their roles with selfless devotion and commitment.

Mr. Chairman,

As a major Troop Contributing Country, Pakistan fully subscribes to the UN's zero tolerance policy for crimes committed by UN officials and experts on Mission. Our peacekeepers have always displayed the highest standards of professionalism and conduct. We remain committed to enforce strict discipline, in any cases of reported misconduct.

Pakistan was also among the first batch of countries to sign the UN's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

We affirm the importance of pre-deployment training of UN officials and experts on Mission. We have developed training modules that form part of the curricula for mandatory courses in respect for human rights and protection of civilians. We are willing to share our training experience with the Secretariat and UN membership.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the goal of criminal accountability can be enhanced by addressing jurisdictional gaps, especially pertaining to crimes recognized by both the host state and the state of nationality, as reaffirmed in several General Assembly resolutions.

We also believe that it is still premature to discuss a draft convention on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. As prosecution is critical for prevention, emphasis should instead, be placed to strengthen and enhance the capacity of national institutions and criminal justice systems, to hold the accused to account. Technical assistance and support of the international organizations including the UN, could contribute towards enhancing national capacities.

International cooperation remains at the heart of achieving greater transparency and accountability in the work of the United Nations. We are

confident that our work in the Sixth Committee would contribute towards this objective.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.