



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda item 78

Criminal Accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

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Mr Chairman,

I welcome this opportunity to address the Sixth Committee on the issue of the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, but would like to make a few points in its national capacity.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his reports A/72/121, A/72/126 and A/72/205 on the implementation of resolution 71/134.

Mr Chairman,

Respect for the rule of law and the fight against impunity are at the core of our society. Slovenia has emphasised also in other contexts and forums that we must strive to prevent safe havens for perpetrators of crimes.

Ensuring accountability is vital for sustainable peace. We recognise the important and indispensable role of UN officials and experts on missions, and we commend them for their dedication and work. But it is also essential that international law and the national legislation of host countries are respected by all members of missions. The United Nations actively promotes its values and fights for a safer and better world, and as such it has to stand also for moral principles and accountability. This is why the United Nations should, without apology, further promote a zero tolerance policy on criminal offences committed by UN officials and experts on missions.

Slovenia strongly condemns the criminal acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. In this light, we commend the Secretary General's report 71/818 and the strategy for systemically improving the approach of the Organization to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition to the focus on impunity, we consider it of special importance to focus on education as the most valuable tool for preventing these crimes.

Slovenia joined the Secretary General's initiative for a mutual commitment of the United Nations and member states to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse. We have expressed our political commitment by signing the Voluntary Compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. As stated in the Compact, together we can contribute to peace and security, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the protection of the most vulnerable among us.

Mr Chairman,

We commend the efforts that the United Nations puts into internal supervision, especially with the finalisation of the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework for the United Nations Secretariat. This framework is of the utmost importance, since most of the cases reported last year involved fraud, theft and corruption. As I said earlier in my statement, there is an expectation that the United Nations will set standards for abiding by the law, and people also expect that the same standards will apply to those who impose them.

As a member state that has experts on missions, Slovenia recognises that the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute lies with individual member states. Nevertheless, cooperation between the UN and member states remains indispensable if we intend to achieve the end goal, which is to exercise jurisdiction over alleged offenders. In this respect, it is important that the State of nationality of an alleged offender is promptly informed and consulted by the UN.

Preventive measures are essential for sustainable peace, security and development. Regarding the criminal accountability of United Nations' officials and experts on mission, Slovenia considers it a priority to duly educate and train all its personnel before deploying them to missions. Proper and effective preparation and pre-deployment training tailored to missions is an essential and critical way of enhancing sensitivity regarding the obligations to fully comply with all international and national norms and standards.

Thank you, Mr Chairman