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Statement

by

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First Secretary

Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand

**before the Sixth Committee
of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 78: Criminal accountability of United Nations officials
and experts on mission**

New York, 6 October 2017

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Mr. Chairman,

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

My delegation would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports, which provide a good basis for the further deliberations of this agenda item. All of us are here today because we share a common goal of ensuring accountability of crimes and ending impunity, including those crimes committed by UN officials or experts on mission.

Mr. Chairman,

Criminal accountability is fundamental in order to advance and sustain the rule of law. Any individual, regardless of their role and status, must be held responsible for his or her own actions for impunity undermines integrity, credibility and effectiveness of the entire Organization.

Thailand once again reiterates its full support and calls for the effective implementation of the “zero tolerance policy” against all forms of misconduct and wrongdoing, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, by anyone serving under the UN flag, as taken forward by the Secretary-General and the Secretary-Generals before him. As a matter of urgency, we must step up our efforts to enhance the effectiveness of investigation mechanism and to protect the victims of their rights and human dignity. We must regain and rebuild integrity and credibility of our United Nations, especially our peacekeeping operations who are at the front line of our efforts to maintain and sustain peace. And to achieve that, immunity can in no way be used as a shield to escape from justice.

On our part, Thailand already puts in place a solid policy and a complete internal legal framework to ensure criminal accountability of our nationals including those serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. The Thai Penal Code firmly establishes criminal jurisdiction over a range of serious crimes committed by any Thai national outside of the territory. At the international level, close international cooperation, through mutual legal assistance and extradition, is crucial in order to facilitate crime investigations and effectively prosecute perpetrators as well as to enhance the delivery of justice. And in this regard, in order to foster such an environment, we all must work together to close any jurisdictional gaps.

Mr. Chairman,

On the preventive side, Thailand also calls for all parties to ensure the full respect of international law as well as the laws of the host State, in order to rebuild and regain trust from the local communities as well as to instill confidence in the international community. We also reiterate the importance and continuation of pre-deployment training, in-session induction, and strict compliance with the UN standards of conduct, all of which can significantly contribute to the prevention and deterrence of crimes. Thailand appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support for their work in this regard.

Thailand takes pride in our contribution of troops to the UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. To date, over 27,000 Thai military and police personnel, both men and women, have served in over 20 peacekeeping and related missions of the United Nations since the beginning of its membership in 1946. We also attach great importance to the intrinsic connection between women, peace and security and the significant role women can positively contribute in this common endeavour. We therefore call on all Member States to increase the recognition and participation of women in peacekeeping operations across the world.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation commends a vast majority of UN officials and experts on mission for their invaluable contribution to uphold the noble principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Their dedication and sacrifice in maintaining global peace and security and in ensuring a smooth transition from conflict to peace and development is unquestionable.

Last but not least, Thailand stands ready, in solidarity with the international community, to uphold justice for lasting peace in the world. We must now listen carefully to the voices of the unheard and bring them justice because they deserve no less.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
