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STATEMENT

BY

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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the
United Nations

On

**Criminal accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on
Mission**

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New York

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to the Secretary General for his report on **Criminal accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission A/74/145.**

I would also like to follow others in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the committee. My delegation assures you and members of the Bureau; its full cooperation and support.

We associate ourselves with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Zambia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the African group and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), respectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country is one of the major contributors for the UN's peacekeeping missions. We are also a seat for the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and several other UN Agencies. The two circumstances put Ethiopia on the two sides of the isle of criminal accountability of UN officials and personnel.

Rule of law with regard to laws on diplomatic privilege and immunity is necessary to maintain the credibility of the United Nations. This requires strict adherence to the laws of host countries by the UN officials and personnel.

Though it is difficult to establish jurisdiction of domestic courts over those crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, it is advisable to put in place a mechanism in which they will be held accountable in the country of their nationality. In this regard, it is important to inform that Ethiopia is fully committed and want to work closely with the UN Secretary General and other organs of the UN to bring those UN officials and experts on mission who abuse their immunities and commit offences.

With regard to the grave offences that are committed, the role of prevention cannot be overemphasized. Contributing states of peacekeeping troops and the United Nations have a major role in making sure the personnel and officials have the training and personality that befits their role as protectors and role models for the world. To this end, we need to make sure our screening is effective. During the pre-deployment, Ethiopia observes the training of the

military and police personnel, material on conduct and discipline, including information on the obligation of all United Nations personnel to observe the laws of host States and the possible consequences of the failure to observe such laws.

I also call on all other states to adopt the zero-tolerance policy at the local level by making sure their nationals that work for the UN do not escape justice due to their diplomatic immunity. This may be done by making sure these individuals are subjected to prosecution pursuant to the laws of the countries of their nationality.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, I would like to underscore the importance of cooperation between the UN and host countries of UN agencies and member states of the United Nations, in order to make sure officials of the UN that violate their honorable responsibility and violate the respective laws of the host states are held accountable to their crimes.

My government stands ready to make the necessary effort to make the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations a success.

Thank you.
