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Statement

by

**Mr. Natthakit Singto,
Second Secretary,
Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand**

**before the Sixth Committee
of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 76:
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials
and experts on mission**

New York, 10 October 2019

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Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports, which serve as a good basis for Member States to further the discussion under this agenda item, with the aim of preventing crimes committed by, as well as ensuring accountability of, all United Nations officials and experts on mission when the crimes inevitably do happen.

3. First of all, Mr. Chair, Thailand would like to commend UN peacekeepers, for their vigorous efforts to maintain international peace and security, protect civilians and ensure that the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations are upheld and respected. We are proud to share that, since the beginning of Thailand's membership in 1946, over 27,000 Thai personnel, men and women, have served in over 20 peacekeeping and related missions of the United Nations. Most recently, we have deployed our military and police personnel, as well as civilian workers in support of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

4. Thailand also believes that efficient and effective achievement of mandate outcomes depend on the quality and capabilities of peacekeepers. For this reason, we endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations to renew our collective commitment to ensure effectiveness of these UN peacekeepers, endorsed the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, and signed a Compact with the UNSG to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure mutual accountability for all UN operations on the ground.

Mr. Chair,

5. At the same time, Thailand wishes to reiterate that criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission is fundamental to promote and sustain the rule of law at the UN and elsewhere. Any individual must be held responsible for the crime they committed, regardless of their roles or status. In this regard, my delegation strongly supports the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on all forms of crimes and misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, by UN officials and experts on mission. When such crime occurs, all effective measures must be sought to ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished,

justice must be served and the rights of victims must be protected. Bringing credible allegations to the attention of the States concerned, as well as the exchange of information in this regard, to facilitate investigations and/or prosecutions is also key, yet it remains a challenge for many countries.

6. In ensuring criminal accountability, both existing and potential jurisdictional gaps must be addressed. The establishment of jurisdiction over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials and experts on mission shall be promoted.

7. The Thai Penal Code ensures criminal accountability of any Thai nationals serving as UN official or expert on mission by establishing jurisdiction over serious criminal offences committed outside the territory. At the international level, Thailand has been strengthening our cooperation with many countries through mutual legal assistance and extradition, aiming to facilitate crime investigations and to bring perpetrators to justice and end impunity.

Mr. Chair,

8. The preventive side is also pivotal. Thailand gives great importance to the pre-deployment and in-mission training programmes and vetting measures to ensure appropriate conduct and discipline of UN officials and experts on mission. Thailand firmly believes that these steps can significantly contribute to the prevention of possible crimes and misconduct committed by UN officials and experts on mission.

9. Last but not least, Thailand stands ready, in the spirit of solidarity with the international community, to support and reinforce the integrity and credibility of UN peacekeeping operations and their peacekeepers. We also recognise the need to increase inclusive participation and roles of women in peacekeeping operations across the world.

Mr. Chair,

10. In closing, I wish to stress once again that immunity must not be used as a shield for wrongdoers to escape from justice. Impunity must be ended.

I thank you for your attention.
