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**Statement by Mr. Yagya Raj Poudyal, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal at the Sixth Committee on agenda item 77: Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission
New York, 12 October 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports under this agenda item.

I align this statement with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Currently the fourth largest troop contributing country, Nepal recognizes the importance of unique contribution and invaluable sacrifice of the peacekeepers and other personnel in the UN peacekeeping missions for the purpose of the maintenance of international peace and security.

We believe that the UN officials and experts, including peacekeepers, who serve in the frontline to maintain peace and security in the world, must possess the highest standard of conduct. This will help further enhance the image, credibility, and impartiality of the United Nations.

Incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as fraud and corruption at UN missions not only undermine the trust and credibility of the United Nations, but also undercut the integrity of the global institution

The purpose of promoting the rule of law and peace and stability in the world will never be fulfilled if the protectors themselves become perpetrators.

Nepal has adopted the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse by its peacekeepers. We reaffirm our support to the UN's efforts in implementing this policy addressing all forms of sexual exploitation.

Nepal is committed to undertake every possible measure to ensure that the perpetrators do not go unpunished and that the rights of victims are protected, should any Nepali official be involved in any kind of criminal offences at UN Missions. Our prevailing military law has the provision of the application of extra-territorial jurisdiction over military personnel in case of offences committed by them while deployed in the UN Missions.

Nepal views that allegation has to be dealt on a case by case basis, and stands against naming and shaming the entire peacekeeping mission or troops/police contributing nations for the criminal deeds of any individual official.

When cases of criminal offences of the UN officials or peacekeepers are reported, they should be brought to the attention of the States concerned. Exchange of information has a very important role in terms of facilitating investigations and prosecutions.

We stress the importance of the triangular relationship between the United Nations Secretariat, peacekeeping missions, and host governments to take immediate actions against any cases of violations.

We also call for the effective implementation of the General Assembly resolution 74/181 and all previous GA resolutions by the UN and its Member States in order to ensure criminal accountability of the UN officials and experts on mission.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal is committed to the principles of a fair, impartial and accountable criminal justice system.

We reiterate the importance of pre-deployment training and in-mission induction on the topics such as conduct and discipline of the UN officials and the experts and the respect to the national law of the host country.

Nepal views that increasing participation of female peacekeepers will help reduce the incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. Nepal has been deploying more female peacekeepers to the extent possible. Nepal has also been implementing UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 for protection of women in conflict and has welcomed the UNSC resolution 2272 in this regard.

I would like to conclude by expressing Nepal's readiness to engage constructively with the United Nations and Member States to bring the UN officials at missions involved in sexual exploitation and abuse, corruption, fraud and other criminal offences to justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.