



SLOVENIA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Ms. Petra Langerholc, Minister Plenipotentiary and Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations on Agenda item 77: Criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission**

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Sixth Committee**

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Mr Chairman,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, we wish to contribute to this important debate in our national capacity.

Allow me to begin by welcoming the Secretary-General's reports under this agenda item. The report provides a valuable update and sets out information on policies, procedures and recommendations concerning credible allegations indicating that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission. The report is a significant step to ensuring that the policies and procedures throughout the United Nations system are coherent, systematic and coordinated.

Mr.Chairman

Slovenia welcomes the updated information on policies, procedures and recommendations of this agenda item provided by entities and bodies of the UN system that are subject to the authority of the Secretary-General (and apply the Staff regulations and Rules of the United Nations). We particularly welcome the fact that even specialised agencies and related organisa-

tions that function as independent international organisations, responded to the request of the Secretary-General and provided information on their relevant policies and procedures. We would appreciate, if in the future, even more independent international organisations decided to share their experiences, as well as recommendations on this issue.

We would like to underline that the expertise and assistance of United Nations officials or experts on mission is among the most effective tools available to the United Nations for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, the protection of citizens and human rights, and all-round global development. They usually work under difficult circumstances. Their role is vital and their highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are much appreciated. This is why any wrongdoing, let alone commission of a crime, casts a dark shadow on their enormous contribution, and could lead to the erosion of trust of the host state. It is therefore crucial that every misconduct is thoroughly examined and perpetrators are brought to justice. In this context, Slovenia supports the zero-tolerance policy that should include all crimes, and urges the Secretary-General to continue pursuing this policy also in the future.

In addition, Slovenia would like to underline the importance of prevention measures and awareness raising of United Nations officials or experts on mission. Training is an essential precondition for ensuring the desired performance, and we welcome the good practices presented so far.

Yet, the primary responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of accusations against officials and experts on mission remains with the state of their nationality. It is therefore of great importance to continuously work on improving the communication among host states, missions and troop-contributing countries as well as on strengthening the cooperation with and within the UN. This is the only way to ensure coherent and coordinated policies and procedures within the UN system.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.