



NEPAL

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nation during the 76th
session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**at the Sixth Committee on agenda item 79: Criminal Accountability of the
United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission**

New York, 12 October 2021

Madam Chair,

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

Nepal aligns its statement with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madam Chair,

The United Nations is the only inter-governmental organization of universal, impartial and reliable nature. The more it gains the trust of the people, the better it can address the global problems. The credibility and integrity of the UN Official and its experts shape the outer-face of the organization. Therefore, the issue of criminal accountability of UN officials and experts, both at the field and offices, is crucial.

The UN should as always, pursue a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses by its officials and staff, everywhere at any time. We should not let the Covid-19 pandemic be a pretext of excuse in investigation and prosecution for the crimes of the UN officials and experts.

We the member states must uphold our primary responsibility to address the serious issues of violation of human rights, abuses of authority and exploitation of the local population. It is important to adhere to the due process in line with the rule of law in protecting the victims, witnesses and whistleblower in ensuring justice to the victims.

The individuals should not go unpunished just because they enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities. In the course of investigation, the Secretary-General should waive such immunities to ensure justice to the victims.

The exchange of information is also an important aspect in facilitating investigations and prosecutions. There should be strong coordination and collaboration between the host country, sending country and UN Secretary General to address the issue of misconduct, exploitation, corruption, and abuses by the UN official.

Madam Chair,

Nepal attaches great importance to the UN officials and experts on mission in fulfilling the purposes and principles of the Organization.

As one of the largest troop and police contributing countries, Nepal understands the importance of professionalism and integrity of UN personnel to secure peace and stability in the troubled parts of the world.

The peacekeepers, the front-liners in the field, are the UN in the eyes of commoners. Therefore, they must possess the highest standard of conduct.

Nepali peacekeepers have always been displaying the highest standard of professionalism, self-discipline, good conduct and respect for human rights.

Nepal maintains the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuses by its peacekeepers.

The existing military law of Nepal has the provision of extra-territorial jurisdiction over military personnel in case of offences committed by them while in the UN Missions.

The National Penal (Code) Act of Nepal has the provision of punishment to its citizen for committing offenses outside Nepal. It also has the provision of imprisonment and fine, in case of criminal mischief in any office of the foreign diplomatic mission or international or intergovernmental organization.

We are of the view that allegations have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. We should avoid naming and shaming the entire peacekeeping mission or nations for the criminal deeds of any individual official.

Nepal greatly honors and abides by the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitations and abuse; and in this regard, welcomes the UNSC resolution 2272.

We have been deploying more female peacekeepers on the mission. We view that more female participation help reduces the cases of exploitation and abuse in the field.

Nepal has been effectively implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security through a National Plan of Action.

Madam Chair

The UN has to ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence, integrity in its officials to build the trust and credibility on it.

We the member states should complement the UN efforts by duly following the rule of law in promoting criminal accountability, including of the UN officials and experts.

Nepal, as a responsible member of the comity of nations, always stands ready to cooperate with the UN and member states to ensure highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity at the UN and to hold the perpetrators accountable for their offences.

Thank you.