

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. DR MAUREEN TAMUNO

**AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO
JAMAICA**

ON

***"CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON MISSION***

**AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

12 OCTOBER 2021

Madam Chair,

Thank you for giving us the floor to speak on this agenda item. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectfully.

2. We commend the Secretary-General for his report and relevant United Nations agencies for the efforts made since the introduction of this agenda item.

3. United Nations Officials and experts on mission abroad are entrusted with the flag of the United Nations which they are obliged to uphold and respect with a sense of duty and responsibility. Any act contrary to this, is unacceptable. In this regard, Nigeria condemns any form of criminality by UN Officials or others working on behalf of the UN. We will continue to advocate that Officials found culpable of any infractions be held accountable according to established laws.

Madam Chair,

4. Nigeria welcomes the zero-tolerance policy of the UN concerning criminal conduct, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, committed by UN personnel and Experts on Mission. My delegation supports the referral of cases of alleged criminal conduct to the States of nationality of the officials and or experts on Mission concerned, for investigation and possible prosecution, and urge Member States to report to the Organization on steps taken thereafter. The primary responsibility is vested on Member States to bring perpetrators to justice.

Madam Chair,

5. My delegation supports the initiative to establish a Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. These victims should be given necessary care and support, they should not be stigmatized. The Nigerian government, having made contributions to the United Nations Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Victims Compensation Fund, urges other Member States to do

same. We welcome cooperation with the United Nations and other Member States to address allegation of crimes committed by UN personnel and experts on mission.

6. Nigeria reiterates the importance of creating a conducive environment that will prevent sexual exploitation and abuse through training, introduction of increased women's participation, improvement of personnel welfare, conduct of timely investigations, prosecutions and the provision of training programmes that will strengthen accountability processes globally.

7. My delegation calls for increase in capacity building for developing States that hinders some States in preventing and punishing alleged crimes. Technical assistance is key in achieving transparency, timely criminal investigation, and reaching resolutions in addressing these crimes.

Madam Chair,

8. In concluding, Nigeria will continue to advocate that Officials should be rewarded for exemplary behaviour to

encourage others, while crime and misconducts should be punished to the full extent of the law. We should be mindful of how the work of the UN impacts the lives of people around the world.

8. I thank you for your attention.