



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by the Delegation of Viet Nam to the Sixth Committee

of the 76th Session of the General Assembly

***Agenda item 79: “Criminal accountability of
United Nations officials and experts on mission”***

New York, 12 October 2021

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Madam Chairperson,

Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports contained in documents A/76/205 and A/76/208 on the implementation of Resolution 75/132 by Member States and policies and procedures by the United Nations system pertaining to criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.

Viet Nam is convinced that UN peacekeepers and personnel, while enjoying immunity in accordance with international law and agreements governing the operations of UN missions, must respect the laws of the host State and those of their country of nationality. This is critical to ensure the effectiveness of their mandate as well as preserve the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

We reaffirm our support for the UN Secretary-General’s policy of “zero tolerance” for all criminal activities, including sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN officials and experts on mission. In order to ensure accountability, jurisdictional gaps must be addressed. States of nationality should take the primary responsibility in exercising jurisdiction over serious

crimes committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials in accordance with the agreement between the respective State and the United Nations.

We take note that, during the reporting period, the Office of Legal Affairs referred 67 cases involving 67 UN officials and experts on mission to the States of nationality for investigation and possible prosecution. The updated table on the nature of allegations and information received from States on all referrals provides a useful reference and is an important step towards ensuring the coordination of policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible allegations of such crimes. We call upon all States to take necessary steps, including adoption of national legislation and enhancement of international cooperation, to ensure criminal accountability.

On our part, we stand ready to cooperate with Member States and the United Nations in information sharing, investigation and prosecution in accordance with our national legislation, relevant international commitments and according to United Nations rules and procedures.

Finally, in preventing these offences from taking place, practical measures to strengthen training and vetting measures are no less important. We fully support continued efforts by the Secretary-General to ensure mandatory pre-deployment training, induction training on arrival and refresher training or otherwise raising awareness of UN personnel regarding the UN standards of conduct. We also welcome entities within the UN system to continue improving their internal procedures and policies to handle complaints and allegations against their international staff.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson./.