



**United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee**  
**Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**  
**(Agenda item 74)**  
6 October 2022

*(check against delivery)*

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, Brazil would like to thank the Secretary General for the two reports submitted this year on criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission. They provide updated information about state practice and the policies and procedures of UN entities and related organizations to fight impunity. Moreover, they provide information on policies and procedures of the Secretariat, thus facilitating the identification of gaps and current challenges.

The fight against impunity is of utmost importance to Brazil. For years, United Nations officials and experts have been diligently performing their duties and furthering the purposes of the Organization. We must not let the actions of a few tarnish the achievements of the whole.

Brazil reiterates its support for the zero-tolerance policy in cases of sexual exploitation, abuse, fraud, corruption and other criminal conduct. Preventive and repressive measures should be combined to forestall such crimes, and the victims must receive adequate support and protection. We owe it to the victims, whose right to justice should also be safeguarded, and we owe it to everyone who trusts the United Nations.

While important progress has been made in addressing credible allegations of crimes that might have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission and in expanding protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct, there is still room for improvement.

Brazil endorses the Secretary-General's suggestion and thus encourages UN system entities and related organizations to review the adequacy of their existing policies and procedures and to identify potential disparities among them. In this regard, we commend those Secretariat units and other entities which appointed a Conduct and Discipline Focal Point to provide advice and support on matters related to conduct and discipline.

At the same time, all Member States should strive to overcome remaining legal challenges to assert jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals when they serve as UN officials or experts on mission. The instances of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations reported by the Secretary-General are a matter of serious concern and must be addressed in earnest by the concerned State of nationality, which is the primary forum for the prosecution of alleged crimes.

Cooperation between the UN and Member States is also of the essence, including with regard to sharing information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States with jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil is proud of the overall track record of its peacekeepers in more than seven decades serving under the UN flag, and we have strict protocols in place to deal with any possible misconduct, including, if necessary, the criminal accountability of alleged perpetrators. Efficient peacekeeping and the promotion of human rights are also some of Brazil's priorities in our current mandate at the Security Council.

Brazil has a robust framework of laws and regulations which enable investigation and prosecution in both criminal and administrative cases. Brazil's Military Penal Code, Military Penal Procedural Code, and, where applicable, Civilian Penal Code and Civilian Penal Procedural Code provide the necessary legal bases for addressing

credible allegations of serious misconduct by Brazilian nationals serving in UN Missions.

Since 2015, the Office of the Military Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense maintain a structured dialogue in order to promote the Zero Tolerance Policy, including the Special Measures outlined by the Secretary General in 2019.

In 2017, Brazil adopted a regulation aimed at reinforcing that military personnel serving in UN missions must undergo specific training on sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2021, another regulation was adopted updating procedural mechanisms to address any allegation of misconduct which could entail possible criminal accountability of military personnel serving in UN missions.

Additionally, Brazil has a wide and ever-increasing network of bilateral and multilateral mutual legal assistance treaties in criminal and

civil matters, which allow for speedy and effective exchange of evidence and information when necessary.

In conclusion, Brazil reiterates its steadfast support for measures aimed at fighting impunity for serious crimes, including those committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission. Ensuring that credible allegations are properly investigated and that perpetrators be brought to justice is key to upholding the values that inspired the work of the United Nations.