

**Statement to be delivered by Rabia Ijaz, Second Secretary on
Agenda Item 74 Criminal accountability of United Nations
officials and experts on Mission**

06 October 2022

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We thank the Secretary-General for his two reports, A/77/225 and A/77/237.

These reports provide updated information about state practice and the policies and procedures of the UN entities to fight impunity. Moreover, they provide information on policies and procedures of the Secretariat, thus facilitating the identification of gaps and current challenges.

Mr. Chair,

The issue of criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission is of utmost importance because it is linked with the image of the United Nations as an organization that has a fundamental role in the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of the rule of law by demonstrating examples in its own work.

As a troop contributing country, Pakistan fully subscribes to the UN's zero tolerance policy for crimes committed by UN officials and experts on Mission.

Our personnel have always displayed the highest standards of professionalism and conduct. We remain committed to enforce strict discipline, in any cases of reported misconduct.

Pakistan was among the first batch of countries to sign the UN's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

We have also developed training modules that form essential part of the curricula for mandatory courses required in career progression of officials. We are willing to share our training experience with the Secretariat and other member states.

Mr. Chair,

While there is no dispute among States concerning the need to ensure that United Nations officials and experts on mission who commit criminal offences are held accountable for their actions, our collective efforts have been falling short because of several factors:

- **First**, as recommended by the Secretary-General, there is an urgent need to enhance the coherence and coordination of policies related to the reporting, investigation, referral, and follow-up of credible crime allegations, especially with regard to specialized agencies and organizations that fall outside the scope of General Assembly resolutions.
- **Two**, the issue of accountability of UN officials and experts on mission is cross-cutting and multifaceted in its nature. While sexual exploitation and abuse is the most vile and heinous expression of abuse, criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission has a much broader scope. In fact, as the latest report of the Secretary General affirms, a majority of reported cases relate to financial impropriety and fraud. Any tendency to view this issue from a specifically narrow perspective should be avoided.
- **Three**, the system for the referral of cases to Member States needs to be strengthened. It was clear from the table contained in the annex to the Secretary-General's report that,

in the majority of cases, no response was received from Member States to follow-up requests for information. There is a need to improve the referral mechanism by drawing on best practices and lessons learned with regard to the sharing of information with Member States on wrongful acts allegedly committed by their nationals.

- **Four**, the imperative to address jurisdictional gaps, remains equally compelling. While we note that divergent viewpoints exist on a comprehensive international legal framework on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, we are, nonetheless, reassured that with a view to bridge these differences, the ongoing discussions within the framework of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee would continue.

To conclude Mr. Chair, Pakistan reiterates its steadfast support to 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, perpetrators are brought to justice and victims find justice and redress is key to uphold the values that inspire the work of the United Nations.

I thank you.
