



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA ON AGENDA ITEM 76: “CRIMINAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON MISSION”**  
**New York, 10 October 2023**

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of reports A/78/275 and A/78/248.

My delegation endorses the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM, and San Vicente and Grenadines on behalf of CELAC, and in our national capacity, we wish to make the following comments.

Like other delegations, we stress the importance of maintaining a zero-tolerance policy in addressing all cases of criminal acts by all categories of United Nations personnel. Likewise, we encourage all UN personnel to continue to perform their duties in a manner that preserves

the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

We appreciate the initiatives and actions taken by the Secretariat on the issue of criminal accountability of officials and experts on mission and request the various legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations to assist in ensuring consistency and coordination of policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of allegations of crimes committed by staff of those agencies and organizations.

Mr. Chair,

The primary responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of allegations against United Nations officials and experts on mission lies with the State of their nationality. However, lack of State cooperation or jurisdictional issues should not impede the performance of

the judicial bodies responsible for delivering justice and thus holding those responsible for crimes accountable.

In addition, we welcome efforts to provide requesting States with technical and other assistance to adopt appropriate legislative measures.

Cuba believes that we must create effective mechanisms to prosecute and punish officials found guilty of these crimes. In this regard, we request the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve information and communication with Member States involved in such acts, from the very beginning of an incident with possible criminal implications. We believe it is vital to ensure that the corresponding notification processes are effectively and efficiently implemented.

Mr. Chair,

We encourage Member States to provide the Secretary-General with more up-to-date information on the status of

their investigations or prosecutions. Also, we request the Secretary-General to continue to submit reports on these issues, including a comprehensive overview of the obstacles at the United Nations, as well as any practical problems faced in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, with a view to developing appropriate policies and legal solutions in this Committee.

Mr. Chair,

We take note of the comprehensive strategy for assistance and support to victims by United Nations and related personnel, which was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 62/214.

My delegation believes that this strategy will help to alleviate the suffering of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as provide social support, legal services and medical care, among other benefits. It is also important that victims of criminal conduct perpetrated by United Nations

officials and experts on mission are aware of the support programs available, as well as all of their rights.

We urge States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that each and every alleged crime committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission does not go unpunished, and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice.

Finally, Cuba considers that acts carried out by United Nations officials and experts on mission cannot go unpunished, due to the nature of their functions and the special vulnerability of the persons who are victims in such cases, as well as the importance of preserving the authority, prestige and image of the world organization.

I thank you.