



**Statement by Mr. Bahram Heidari
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the Sixth Committee of the
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on
“Criminal accountability of the United Nations officials and experts on mission”
(Agenda item 76)
New York, 10 October 2023**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report contained in documents A/78/275 and A/78/248. I align myself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and I would like to deliver the following in my national capacity.

My delegation would like to support the efforts by the UN and its Member States to preserve the credibility, reputation and integrity of the UN system to combat impunity by bringing the perpetrators of any crimes among the UN officials and experts on mission to justice. We also express our steadfast support to the United Nations’ zero-tolerance policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

We would also like to underscore our longstanding position that the state of nationality is the appropriate forum for the prosecution of alleged crimes. As has been emphasized by resolution A/77/98, it is incumbent upon the Member States to bridge jurisdictional gaps as well as predict the necessary legal bases for mutual legal assistance and extradition for the institution of criminal proceedings.

We take note that there is no dispute among States concerning the need to ensure accountability for UN officials and experts on mission who



have committed criminal offences; however, there exists no consensus on the future of this work. We encourage delegations to form a solution sooner rather than later. In order to ensure a coherent and coordinated policy among the United Nations, it is necessary for the Host Countries and contributing States to effectively respond to the existing deficiencies so as to achieve accountability and eliminate impunity. This coordination of policies will ensure the appropriate implementation of the “principle of prohibition of double trial and punishment” (Non bis in idem) while conducting disciplinary measures and criminal proceedings in which the state of nationality is strictly observed.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to reiterate the Islamic Republic of Iran’s legislative measures to give effect to its obligations under the UN Charter as well as other relevant instruments, including the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

The Penal Code as well as the Law of Criminal Procedure of the Islamic Republic of Iran provide the legal bases necessary for effective prosecution of crimes committed by Iranian nationals wherever they have committed such crimes, including those serving as UN officials or experts on mission. Our criminal system is committed to ensuring that Iranian nationals are not able to escape justice under the pretext of immunity for their alleged crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran asserts extraterritorial jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad by its nationals based on the principle of nationality, if the offence is recognized by the Iranian Penal Code. In addition, criminal judicial assistance, as well as extradition, are permitted by our criminal law based on both bilateral and multilateral treaties, as well as on the principle of reciprocity in the absence of such agreements



on a case-by-case basis. Our Law of Criminal Procedure also provides effective protection for witnesses and victims who provide information in relation to crimes.

Mr. Chairperson

In conclusion, my delegation would like to emphasize that providing legal bases under national laws and systematic and effective cooperation among the UN Secretariat, Host Countries, as well as contributing States, play an important role in the prevention, prosecution and punishment of crimes committed by the UN officials and experts on mission and combating impunity within the UN system.

Thank you