



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

ON

**CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON MISSION**

(Sixth Committee)

**AT THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Chair

My delegation aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Uganda on behalf of African Group and the Distinguish representative of Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

2. Nigeria also commends the Secretary General for the Report and progress made so far. We also expressed appreciation to the UN Officials and Experts for their sacrifice and dedication to the essential, but the most difficult work of the United Nations around the world. However, we wish to reiterate that these group of personnel need to conduct themselves professionally when at field in distinguishing themselves in the discharge of their duties and shun any act of indecorous of international personnel. The code of conduct of their profession must always be observed in the field as they are not immune from being held accountable for their criminal activities.

Mr. Chair

3. In our previous Statements, we have declared our support to the General Assembly resolutions encouraging States Parties to introduce measures that would ensure that United Nations Officials and Experts who violate the laws guiding their duties are held accountable, we are still reaffirming our position today that perpetrators of crimes against humanity should not go scot-free. We strongly believe that national authorities of any erring personnel should be able to hold their nationals accountable for crimes committed.

4. We also seize this opportunity to recognize that personnel should be trained and re-trained for professional performance in the field. Perpetrators of heinous crimes must be punished in order to serve as deterrence to others. Nigeria strongly believes in measures that would enhance discipline among United Nations staff on Mission. As noted during our previous Statement on this subject, regular training remains one of the best ways of regulating the activities of the UN staff on Missions.

5. My delegation wishes to reiterate Nigeria's zero tolerance policy regarding criminal activities of some UN officials, most especially crimes such as abuse and sexual exploitation, perpetrators of these heinous crimes should be referred to the state of their nationality for prosecution. Crimes and criminality should not be condoned under any guise. Nigeria, therefore, welcomes any measure that would be put in place to ensure sanity among UN officials and experts.

6. Nigeria remains committed to contributing towards collective efforts exterminate atrocities being committed by the representatives of the world body such as the United Nations. In this regard, Nigeria would continue to support the United Nations Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Victims Compensation Fund.

7. Finally, we need to put mechanism in place that will address issues relating to perpetration of crimes against humanity in all ramifications, as we re-affirm Nigeria's commitment to maintenance of global peace and stability.

Thank you for your attention.