



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**U.S. Remarks at Meeting of the Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 76: Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials
and Experts on Mission**

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The United States is grateful to the officials and experts on mission who perform the essential work of the United Nations around the world.

We appreciate the high standards of integrity with which the vast majority of these officials and experts conduct their work. The United States reiterates its firmly held belief that, on the rare occasion when UN officials and experts on mission commit crimes, they should be held to account.

Thanks to Secretary-General Guterres for his July 18 report. While we note that a number of UN funds, programs and specialized agencies did not provide information in response to the call from the Secretariat, there were a number of positive responses that demonstrate a proactive approach and robust response to misconduct.

For example, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) provides comprehensive annual reporting on conduct and discipline and on fraud and corruption that includes statutory frameworks, trainings, cases of misconduct and actions taken as a result of that misconduct. We recommend other agencies look to UNEP's approach to strengthen their own efforts.

The United States also appreciates the detailed information provided by Governments and the Secretariat, as summarized in the July 19 report. We are thankful to the Governments that provided information on a variety of topics, including with respect to Member States' vetting procedures.

For example, we noted El Salvador's commendable policies to ensure staff are well-suited for the task and to sensitize staff on the zero-tolerance policy for crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission. The United States believes that such policies can serve as best practices for troop- and police-contributing countries.

The United States also thanks the Secretary-General for his related February 14 report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. We were pleased to read

about the measures taken to enhance prevention, accountability and to prioritize victims' rights and dignity. We were encouraged to see that over 50,000 staff from 94 entities and 168 countries or territories participated in the annual survey regarding protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in 2023. We are glad to see the high percentage of pre-deployment training and awareness and call for efforts to continue in this regard.

Despite improvements, we concur with the Secretary-General's assessment that it is time for a "cultural transformation within the United Nations," especially in the wake of the recent allegations of serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, in MINUSCA and MONUSCO. We reaffirm our strong support for repatriation whenever there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by any particular unit. The United States continues to welcome the work of the Special Coordinator on Improving the UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate. We are pleased to contribute to the Trust Fund that provides critical support to survivors.

We request that all UN programs, specialized agencies, and related organizations continue to examine the issues addressed in these reports and revise internal rules and procedures, with the goals of further mitigating the risks of sexual misconduct and promoting greater accountability for criminal conduct, sexual exploitation or abuse committed by UN officials and experts.

And we agree with the Secretary-General's recommendation that Member States should continue to encourage the legislative bodies of the United Nations system and related organizations to ensure the coherence and coordination of relevant policies and procedures for *all* personnel, and not just with respect to UN officials and experts on mission.

We look forward to continued engagement in this Committee and with the Secretariat on this important issue.

Thank you, Chair.

