

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Statement by Mr. Hassan Soleimani

representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Agenda Item 76: Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

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Mr. Chair.

We express our gratitude to the Secretariat for the efforts made in preparing the relevant report as per resolution 78/102. While we highlight the valuable works of the United Nations' officials and experts on mission in contributing to the fulfillment of the very purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates conferred upon the organization, we reiterate that in atypical cases where UN officials or experts on mission perpetrate crimes, it remains vital that they are brought to justice and do not evade legal consequences of their crimes. Ending impunity for commission of crimes by UN officials and experts on missions is also necessary to preserve the credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the United Nations. Effective response to criminal acts of UN officials and experts on mission could have a preventive impact leading to less victimization.

Although no distinction or exception should be made on the very rejection of any sort of crimes by UN officials and experts; responses, policies, and approaches taken by the United Nations with respect to the offences should correspond to the nature and gravity of the offences in question. In this respect, adopting a zero-tolerance policy and putting in place more rigorous safeguards for interdicting serious crimes related to sexual exploitation and abuse, especially when the victims of these crimes are children as well as to corruption offences and financial crimes is of immense importance. We take note with appreciation of the determination laid out in the relevant resolutions highlighting "that there will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations" and the particular attention to countering the heinous crimes related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

We highlight the need for appropriate preventive measures by the United Nations to reduce chances of commission of crimes by UN officials and experts on mission. To this end, proper mechanisms concerning the recruitment of UN officials and experts on mission could be strengthened together with proper training and awareness-raising especially on respecting domestic laws of countries where the UN country office has been established. As referred to in the resolution as well as the report of the Secretary-General, greater quality and consistency in investigations by investigative entities of the Organization and the development of harmonized standards of investigation could be of practical utility in this endeavor to ensure that measures are accompanied by appropriate investigative processes.

Mr. Chair.

We reaffirm our position regarding the appropriate forum for prosecution and adjudication of offenders and that the nationality principles remain the proper basis for addressing the crimes in question. National courts of the State of nationality of the offenders are best placed to entertain and adjudicate criminal cases. The application of this principle could provide legal clarity, avoidance of double jeopardy, resolving possible conflict of jurisdictions and finally could contribute to ending impunity. The domestic laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran having due regard to the principle of nationality in relation with UN officials and experts on missions, aim to ensure that crimes committed by its nationals do not go unpunished.

As has been observed in the course of the present and previous meetings of the Sixth Committee, differing views exist on the question of future action; in the absence of consensus on this matter; continuation of exchange of views which has been the case for a long time in the Sixth Committee under this agenda item seems the most viable and practical option.

I thank you.