

**Statement delivered by Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN during the Sixth Committee General Debate on the Agenda Item 76 “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on Mission”**

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**79<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. We thank the Secretary-General for the latest reports, A/79/185 and A/79/189, issued under this agenda item. These reports provide timely insights into the practices and policies adopted by individual states and UN entities in their efforts to combat impunity for criminal offenses committed by UN officials and experts on mission. They also highlight the Secretariat's policies and procedures, helping to identify existing gaps and ongoing challenges.

**Mr. Chair,**

3. The matter of criminal accountability for United Nations officials and mission experts is critically important, as it profoundly influences the organization's reputation. The United Nations plays a vital role in fostering peace, security, and the rule of law; thus, it is essential that it embodies these principles in its own conduct.

4. Pakistan takes immense pride in its long-standing contributions to UN peacekeeping, having deployed more than 200,000 troops across 47 missions in some of the most demanding environments. As a leading troop-contributing country, Pakistan fully endorses the UN's zero-tolerance policy on crimes committed by UN officials and mission personnel. Our peacekeepers have consistently upheld the highest standards of professionalism and conduct, and we remain resolute in enforcing strict discipline in response to any instances of misconduct.

5. Pakistan was one of the first countries to sign the UN's voluntary compact to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse. Additionally, we have developed training modules that are now a core component of the mandatory courses required for the career progression of our officials.

**Mr. Chair,**

6. While there is a consensus among States on the imperative to hold United Nations officials and mission experts accountable for criminal offenses, our collective efforts have been undermined by several significant factors:

- **First**, As recommended by the Secretary-General, it is imperative to boost the coherence and coordination of policies concerning the reporting, investigation, referral, and follow-up of credible criminal allegations. This is particularly crucial for specialized agencies and organizations that operate beyond the purview of General Assembly resolutions.
- **Second**, the referral system for cases to Member States requires significant strengthening, as many follow-up information requests since 2016 remain unanswered as evident in the Secretary General's latest report. It is vital to enhance the referral mechanism by integrating best practices and lessons learned to facilitate more effective sharing of information related to alleged misconduct by their nationals.
- **Third**, the issue of accountability for UN officials and mission experts is complex and multifaceted. While sexual exploitation and abuse are among the most serious offenses, the scope of criminal accountability extends well beyond these. In past few years, we have seen and gradual increase in cases involving financial misconduct and fraud. It is crucial to adopt a comprehensive approach, ensuring that all forms of misconduct are addressed with equal meticulousness. In this regard, we note with appreciation the proactive approach outlined in the Secretary-General's latest report, wherein United Nations system entities will continue to utilize their internal networks to assess the adequacy of existing policies and procedures, identify potential disparities, and promote enhanced cooperation on cross-cutting issues, such as financial recovery.
- **Fourth**, the need to address jurisdictional gaps is equally pressing. While we acknowledge the existence of differing perspectives on establishing a comprehensive international legal framework for the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and mission experts, we are encouraged that the ongoing discussions within the Working Group of the Sixth Committee will work toward bridging these differences.

7. In conclusion, Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to initiatives aimed at combating impunity for serious crimes, including those perpetrated by UN officials and mission experts. It is essential that credible allegations are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are held accountable, and victims receive

justice and proper redress. This is vital to maintaining the core values that guide the United Nations' work.

**I thank you.**

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