



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
**Agenda Item 76 - Criminal accountability of United Nations officials
and experts on mission**

79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
14 October 2024
UN Headquarters New York

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary General for the reports on ensuring the accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts as set out in documents (A/79/185) and (A/79/189). The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement under this agenda item and, in our national capacity, wishes to share the following:

The Philippines recognizes the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter. It is also important that United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

Mindful of the critical work of tens of thousands of United Nations officials and experts on mission, we agree that the actions of a few should not 'tarnish the achievements of the whole.' Thus, we acknowledge the importance of taking concrete steps to prevent, investigate and hold accountable personnel for criminal conduct and enhancing international cooperation, in this regard, to ensure criminal accountability.

Mr. Chair,

Since 1963, the Philippines has actively participated in UN Peacekeeping Operations around the world to contribute in collaborative endeavors to help make peace a reality, deploying over 15,000 Filipino peacekeepers to 21 United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions in Africa, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific.

We are committed to the cause of UN Peacekeeping Operations around the world and intend to increase our engagement in this flagship endeavor of the UN.

In revitalizing our participation in UN peacekeeping operations, the Philippines will prioritize the strengthening of accountability and system-wide efforts to ensure zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in support of victims' rights and dignity.

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We will also place a high priority in ensuring the safety of peacekeepers, who are operating against the backdrop of complex political and security situations, and for this reason, must be accorded with adequate resources to address the peacekeepers' needs that guarantee their safety and security.

We will strengthen efforts to increase the meaningful participation of women in uniformed roles. Our pledge to increase our contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations around the world with more Filipino peacekeepers on the ground, will include, in particular, highly-trained women peacekeepers, as part of this commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security and in rebuilding communities scarred by conflicts. We support the integration of gender perspectives on all aspects of peacekeeping across command levels.

To conclude, we will continue to do our part not just in peacekeeping but also in rebuilding communities, healthcare, and promoting human rights, especially in regions affected by climate change and complex geopolitical conflicts. In revitalizing participation, ensuring criminal accountability will be concomitant to our efforts, acknowledging the value of preventive measures, capacity building, meaningful exchanges of best practices, and a victim-centered approach in moving forward. **END**