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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa,
Permanent Representative of Nepal to the
United Nations at 80th Session of the Sixth
Committee of the UN General Assembly
under Agenda Item No. 77: Criminal
Accountability of the United Nations
Officials and Experts on Mission**

(New York, 10 October 2025)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, we welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive reports under this agenda which provide an overview of the practices and policies implemented by individual states and UN entities in their efforts to address criminal accountability.

Nepal aligns its statement with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

The UN was founded on the principles of equality, justice, human dignity, and the rule of law. These are the values that continue to guide us as we navigate through the increasingly complex world we face. The

UN has remained a beacon of hope for peace, human dignity, and prosperity.

UN officials and experts, who represent the organization, bear this image of the Organization. They are entrusted with upholding the values it represents. They are expected to act with utmost integrity, impartiality, professionalism, and respect for human dignity. Failing to uphold these values or misconduct by a few individuals tarnishes the reputation and effectiveness of the organization.

We, therefore, underscore that criminal accountability is not only a matter of justice but also essential to maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations.

Addressing the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts, whether in the field or the headquarters, is crucial.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal commends the Secretary-General's continued efforts and the strategic measures implemented to operationalize his zero-tolerance policy for

misconduct and the commission of crimes, including sexual exploitation and abuse, corruption, fraud, and financial embezzlement by United Nations officials and experts in the field.

It is crucial to ensure that credible allegations are thoroughly investigated, wrongdoers are held accountable, and victims receive justice.

Meanwhile, we emphasize the importance of supporting and protecting victims of misconduct.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with the United Nations and fellow member states to ensure that justice is served in all cases of criminal misconduct by UN experts and staff on mission.

We believe that by holding individuals accountable for their actions, we not only preserve the credibility of the United Nations but also honor the principles upon which this organization was founded- principles of justice, equality, and the protection of human rights.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal's domestic legal framework provides robust

mechanisms to address such crimes. The National Penal Code Act, 2017 criminalizes a wide range of offenses, including those committed extraterritorially by Nepali nationals. Under Section 3 of the Penal Code, Nepal exercises jurisdiction over crimes committed by its citizens abroad.

Furthermore, Nepal has enacted the Extradition Act, 2014 and the Mutual Legal Assistance Act, 2014, which facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters. These laws enable Nepal to respond to requests for extradition and legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings, in accordance with international standards and bilateral or multilateral agreements.

We emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation between Member States and the United Nations to ensure that immunity does not equate to impunity.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal takes great pride in its longstanding and distinguished history of participation in United

Nations peacekeeping operations. With approximately 5,900 Nepali peacekeepers currently deployed across various missions, Nepal today stands as the largest Troop- and Police-Contributing Country to UN peacekeeping.

Nepal remains firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct, discipline, and integrity among all its deployed personnel.

To this end, all Nepali peacekeepers undergo rigorous pre-deployment and in-mission training, covering key aspects such as ethical conduct, discipline, integrity, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, among many other professional and administrative lessons and virtues.

We have established strict accountability mechanisms to ensure that any personnel found to have engaged in sexual or criminal misconduct face appropriate legal and administrative action.

Nepal maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward all

forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a firm determination to maintain a zero-case scenario.

In this regard, Nepal welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2272 and remains fully committed to the Voluntary Compact on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

We have also adopted a National Action Plan for the effective implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace, and Security, and we continue to enhance the participation of women in peacekeeping operations.

Our national legislation provides for strict penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for any Nepali national found guilty of criminal acts abroad, including within the premises of diplomatic missions or international organizations.

Furthermore, the Nepal Army Act incorporates extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction, ensuring that Nepali troops are held accountable for any criminal misconduct committed beyond our national borders.

We firmly believe that each allegation of misconduct must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

It is crucial to avoid collective condemnation of an entire mission or Member State for the individual actions of a few.

The State of nationality of the accused UN personnel or expert should bear the primary responsibility for investigating, prosecuting, and ensuring accountability for any substantiated criminal conduct.

Nepal's unwavering commitment to United Nations peacekeeping reflects our enduring faith in multilateralism and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

We will continue to work in close partnership with the United Nations and Member States to uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional peacekeeping and to advance our shared goal of sustaining international peace and security.

Mr. Chair.

It is incumbent upon the member states and the UN to work in close partnership to ensure robust mechanisms to address the issue of criminal accountability.

Cooperation and collaboration among the Secretariat, the UN Mission, host state, and the sending state is vital to hold the preparators accountable.

Such collaboration not only reinforces institutional credibility but also affirms our shared commitment to justice, human rights, and the highest standards of conduct.

Nepal believes that the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework at the United Nations level would significantly strengthen the accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.

We remain open to constructive dialogue on proposals that uphold due process, respect national sovereignty, and ensure justice for victims of criminal misconduct.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Nepal reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting United Nations initiatives aimed at addressing and preventing criminal

acts committed by UN officials and experts on mission.
We stand ready to contribute to efforts that promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law within the UN system.

I thank you.