

Egypt statement at the 36th formal session of the 5th committee

May 9th, 2016 Delivered

by Counselor Tamer Mostafa

Mr. President

- We welcome the report of the SG on Cross cutting issues, and we would like to express our intention to work constructively on this important report, which tackles pertinent issues that must be dealt with effectively and efficiently. Having said that, we believe that a strong response to the recurring sexual exploitation and abuse cases should involve engaging the wider membership of the United Nations.
- Egypt adheres fully to the zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse. We believe one case is too many and should be addressed in a very serious manner and that the perpetrators who are found guilty should be expeditiously brought to justice no matter whether they are UN, non-UN, civilian or uniformed personnel.
- We support the work of the Secretary General and that of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse, especially with regards to engaging troop and police contributing countries, and we pledge our full cooperation and support. In this regard, we reiterate that when it comes to sexual exploitation and abuse, the United Nations (Secretariat and member states) should be *united* behind the victims. These unfortunate incidents should not be used for bickering, posturing or scoring political points between member states.
- We believe that members of the General Assembly must urgently initiate negotiations on a General Assembly resolution on measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in a holistic manner that include preventive measures (pre-deployment training and vetting), full accountability, remedial action as well as cooperation with other organizations and entities.
- We call for the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C34) to hold a special session to consider response to sexual exploitation and abuse. This response should take into consideration tackling the root causes of the

incidents, as mentioned in the Secretary General's report; mainly a) factors associated with country specific situations (such as extreme poverty, vulnerability of the population), and b) factors relating to the management of the peacekeeping operations (mainly re-hatting of the troops, absence of pre-deployment training, living conditions of contingents, length of deployment, periodicity of their rotation, and proximity to local populations).

- We emphasize that the occurrence of several cases of sexual exploitation and abuse should not be used to shame more than a hundred thousand brave United Nations peacekeepers or disparage their sacrifices to implement United Nations Security Council mandate in order to bring peace and security to the world's most troubled areas. Sexual exploitation and abuse crimes are individual crimes, and there should be no collective punishment for those who do not commit these crimes.
- We believe that United Nations should promote best practices in preventing and ensuring rapid accountability in substantiated cases, including naming countries with exemplary response to substantiated cases and the deterring actions they took against the perpetrators.
- Finally, we welcome the establishment of the "Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse" by the SG. We believe that General Assembly resolution 62/412 could be the basis for a comprehensive General Assembly approach on that matter.

Thank you.