



**Statement**

**by**

**Yidnekachew Gebre-meskel Zewdu,**

**Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the UN**

**at the Sixth Committee of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGA**

**On**

**Agenda item 75**

**‘Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on  
Mission ’**

**October, 2014**

**New York**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me, at the outset, to associate my delegation with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and the Non Aligned Movement. My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his report on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission.

The agenda item under discussion is of great importance to my country as we are one of the active participants in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and home to several United Nation Offices, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Ethiopia greatly values the sacrifices made by the United Nations peacekeepers and commends the contributions of United Nations Officials and experts on mission in the implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

My delegation firmly believes that all United Nations officials and experts on mission should perform their duties in a manner that preserves the integrity and credibility of the United Nations. They are expected to adhere to the highest standards of the rule of law. They have also the responsibility and duty to abide by the law of the host State. There have been cases in this regard that are a source of concern.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The challenge in this regard is that the United Nations officials must enjoy privileges and immunities which are necessary for the independent exercise of their official functions pursuant to Article 105 of the United Nations Charter and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Hence, cooperation between States and the United Nations in investigating allegations of criminal conduct of United Nations officials and experts on mission is highly essential. We urge Member States to establish jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals while serving as United

Nations officials or experts on mission abroad, so that the existing legal gaps are eliminated and such crimes were not met with impunity and that justice is served. Member States shall also give assistance in criminal investigations and extradition proceedings.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pursuant to the Ethiopian Criminal Code, Ethiopian courts have jurisdiction over an Ethiopian official or expert on mission, who cannot be prosecuted at the place of commission of the crime due to immunity that person enjoys. My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to take all appropriate measures to ensure accountability and that the perpetrators of such crimes were brought to justice.

As I conclude Mr. Chairman, let me express My delegation's view that it would be important for the General Assembly to remain seized of the matter and Member States to continue to be informed of allegations of criminal activity or abuse by United Nations officials and experts on mission.

**Thank You!**