

ISRAEL

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by:

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Agenda Item 75

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

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Mr. Chairman,

Israel welcomes Resolution 68\105 and the latest report adopted by the General Assembly, which urges States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that United Nations officials and experts on mission should be held accountable if they commit crimes, and to ensure that crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, do not go unpunished.

Israel is concerned that crimes committed by UN officials and experts on mission adversely affect and undermine the United Nations mandate, especially with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country.

While Israel appreciates the progress made in this regard, we look forward to seeing how the different States will develop their national legislation regarding criminal activity of nationals on UN missions and urge Member States to take appropriate action to ensure that such crimes are not met with impunity.

Israel acknowledges the Secretary General's efforts to refer credible allegations against UN officials to the state of the alleged offender's nationality. Since the submission of the previous report, the Office of Legal Affairs referred fifteen cases to States to investigate and possibly prosecute their nationals, who served as UN officials. We urge those states to update the United Nations on actions that were undertaken by their national authorities regarding those cases.

Israel welcomes the United Nations' three-pronged strategy to address all forms of misconduct and in particular those of serious nature such as sexual exploitation and abuse, which include prevention, enforcement and remedial action.

Israel also welcomes the United Nations decision to urge the Secretary-General to continue to take other practical measures within his authority in order to strengthen existing training regarding United Nations standards of conduct.

Israel hopes that these efforts will raise the awareness of states in relation to the issue of proper conduct and crime prevention by its nationals on UN missions.

Finally, Israel believes that enhanced cooperation among states, and between states and the UN, will serve as a positive basis for progress. Israel urges states to take all appropriate measures to develop practical ways to address the need of accountability as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.