



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

Delegation of Thailand to the United Nations

to the United Nations

before the Sixth Committee

of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Agenda Item 75 : Criminal accountability of United Nations
officials and experts on mission**

New York, 22 October 2014



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Mr. Chairman,

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Thailand thanks the Secretary-General for his report entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission" (A/69/210), which we find highly useful. The information on state practices as well as the information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in this area helps us to have a clearer picture of the problems and how to solve them.

Mr. Chairman,

In Thailand's view, criminal accountability is fundamental to the rule of law and the fight against impunity. Essentially, it requires that one must be held accountable for one's actions, regardless of one's role or status. As a troop-contributing country in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, Thailand attaches high importance to the urgent need to tackle both existing and potential jurisdictional gaps, which allow UN personnel who have committed serious crimes to escape justice.

Thailand reiterates our conviction that the rule of law fully applies to the United Nations and its personnel. Therefore, my delegation supports the policy of zero tolerance, and calls upon all Member States to ensure criminal accountability of the United Nations officials and experts on mission.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that one way to bring offenders to justice and end impunity is for the host State and other troop-contributing States to cooperate through treaties and arrangements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. In addition, States may adopt a more flexible approach to the double criminality principle. In this regard, States should not focus so much on the terminology or the constituent elements of the offence, which may differ from one legal system to another. Rather, States should focus on the totality of the acts or omissions alleged against the person whose extradition is sought.

My delegation further encourages the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion justly and reasonably in waiving immunity where such immunity could impede the course of justice.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand appreciates the efforts made by the United Nations in providing technical advice and support to Member States to amend their domestic laws to allow for the necessary investigation and prosecution. We also support the existing pre-deployment and in-mission training programmes, which promote compliance with the United Nations' codes of conduct and international law. These efforts help prevent possible allegations of crimes involving gender-based violence and exploitation of women and children committed by United Nations personnel which will undermine the organization's credibility and mission's success.

Thailand also wishes to express our appreciation to the effort of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for their assistance in the pre-deployment training of Thai troops and police officers who are now operating in various peacekeeping missions. Such training ensures that our troops, police, officials and experts are well informed and act in compliance with international standards.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Thailand commends the vast majority of UN officials and experts on missions. Their dedication and sacrifice in maintaining world peace and security and in promoting the transition from conflict to peace and development cannot be stressed enough. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to their sacrifices and invaluable contribution towards the fulfillment of the noble principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.