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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by:

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Agenda Item 76

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts

on mission

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Mr. Chairman,

Israel emphasizes the importance of ensuring that any UN official or expert who commits a serious crime in the course of a UN operation is held criminally accountable. Clearly, such criminal activity primarily harms the immediate victims, but it is also deeply damaging to the host country and to the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations itself. Therefore, Israel supports General Assembly resolution 66/93 and urges states to take all appropriate measures to ensure that such crimes are not met with impunity.

We commend the Secretary General for his latest report (A/67/213) outlining relevant national legislation of states on this issues as well as relevant cooperation with the UN. In this regard, we urge all states to close the jurisdictional gap and assert jurisdiction over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials and experts on mission abroad. We also takes note of the information presented in the report, in which seventeen cases were referred by the UN to the state of nationality of the alleged offender, and we urge Member States to take appropriate action and inform the UN on their progress.

Israel welcomes the various prevention measures adopted by the Secretariat to eradicate misconduct, including the implementation of the three-pronged strategy to address misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse.

We recall the disagreements among Member States over the question of negotiating a new convention to address the issue of criminal accountability. We believe that it will be more effective and useful at this stage to focus on and address the substantive and practical matters, while leaving the question of form to a later stage.

Finally, Israel encourages all states to enhance international cooperation by the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution in order to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

Thank you.