

**Statement by
the Delegation of Ukraine
before the Sixth Committee
The 67th session of the UN General Assembly
On Agenda Item 76:
“Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”
(New York, October 12, 2012)**

*Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,*

At the outset the Delegation of Ukraine would like to align itself with the statement that has been delivered by the distinguished Delegation of the European Union.

We would like to thank to the Secretary-General for his recent report “On criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.

It is of paramount importance for credibility and authority of the United Nations to ensure that any crime committed by UN official or expert on mission does not go unpunished due to his or her special status. Any such crime should be investigated in due manner and a perpetrator of the crime should be brought to justice in conformance with international law and standards, including human rights and due process.

For this goal in mind we should continue to encourage States to establish, assert and exercise criminal jurisdiction over their nationals participating in UN operations who commit serious crimes in a host State.

The Delegation of Ukraine considers that the proposal on conclusion of an international convention, which would fill in jurisdictional gaps for the crimes, merits consideration by this Committee. However, this will work in a long-term perspective. Today, all Member States should focus on closer cooperation between themselves and with the United Nations with the aim to facilitate due investigations of the crimes.

Also, we remain confident that training and awareness-raising on United Nations standards of conduct should remain at the centre of the preventive measures adopted by field missions and welcome the implementation of such additional measures at UN Headquarters level by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

Within the global initiative of the DPKO on Strategic Guidance Framework, in March next year, Ukraine will host one of a number of regional workshops, designed to frame a common vision of a future model for UN Policing. We expect that, among other important issues, the workshop will be a valuable contribution in preventing crimes by UN officials and experts on missions.

Distinguished Delegates,

Let us, furthermore, draw your attention to other problem. Unfortunately, recent years have seen an increase in number of deaths and injuries resulting from the deliberate attacks against the personnel of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The death toll among Blue Helmets has reached more than 3,000. This figure comprises both civilian and military personnel of United Nations peacekeeping missions who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 1948, including Ukraine's fellow citizen Ihor Kinal, killed on 17 March 2008 while serving in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

In this regard the Delegation of Ukraine urges all Member State to continue to pay due attention to the issues related to safety and security of our national contingents deployed to UN peacekeeping missions. We take note of the last Secretary-General's comprehensive report on all processes involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against deployed United Nations peacekeepers and look forward to participating in a briefing of UN Secretariat to further clarify all United Nations internal policies, rules and procedures on internal investigations..

Also, we urge all Member States concerned to participate in good faith in investigation of crimes committed against our Blue Helmets.

I thank for your attention.