



**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
SUITE 435  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

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**Statement by Mr. PHAM QUANG HIEU  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations  
at the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sixth Committee of UNGA on Agenda Item 80  
“Criminal Accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”  
(16 October 2015, New York)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. Viet Nam associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. We highly appreciate the report of the Secretary General - A/70/208 on Criminal accountability of UN officials and experts in mission, which provides updated information on the experiences of several states, the recent referrals by the Office of Legal Affairs of 22 cases of officials or experts in mission to States of nationality in the period between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 and the progress in states' handling of another 10 cases brought to their attention in the preceding reporting period.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Viet Nam recognizes the valuable contribution of UN peacekeepers towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter. We are convinced that these persons, while enjoying immunity in accordance with international law and agreements governing operations of UN missions, need to respect the national laws of the host State and the laws of their country of nationality. Criminal conducts by such persons have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of the mandate and on the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. We reaffirm our support for the policy of “zero tolerance” on all forms of sexual exploitation

and abuse, which was echoed in the Declaration of the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

4. Viet Nam attaches importance to the need for appropriate measures to fill the jurisdictional gaps in order to avoid impunity of UN officers and staff who commit serious crimes while on mission. We call upon all States to take necessary steps, including adoption of national legislation and enhancement of international cooperation in this regard. As for Viet Nam, we have adopted in our Penal Code a provision that allows the exercise of jurisdiction over crimes committed by Vietnamese nationals in another countries in certain circumstances. We have also concluded many agreements with other countries on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, including cooperation in the areas of investigation, exchange of information, collection of evidence and judicial process.

5. Apart from ensuring criminal accountability when serious crimes occur, it is important that adequate measures are put in place to prevent these offences. We fully support the continuing efforts by the Secretary General to ensure pre-deployment and in-mission induction training, including awareness-raising, for UN personnel. Yet, it is not only the duty of the UN to work towards ending impunity and preventing crimes, but also of each member state. Viet Nam established in 2014 the Viet Nam Peacekeeping Centre, which is charged with conducting in-country training for our officers prior to deployment and aspired to be "a source of talented and dedicated personnel" in the words of the Secretary General during his visit to the centre May this year.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We wishes to work together with the other States on this issue and look forward to the consideration and discussion of the report of the Group of Legal Experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.