



**United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**

10 October 2019

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil thanks the Secretary General for the reports submitted this year about the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. They provide a useful compilation of state practice on criminal jurisdiction over crimes committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, thus facilitating the identification of jurisdictional gaps. Moreover, they contain updated information on the policies and procedures of the Secretariat on the matter, with proper focus on strengthening coordination and coherence within the system.

Mr. Chairman,

For years, United Nations personnel have been diligently performing their duties and working to make a positive impact in societies around the world. Every crime committed by UN officials or experts on mission taints the credibility of all other workers of the Organization, compromising their ability to cooperate and interact with governments and the population in the field. Most importantly, these crimes often affect the most vulnerable, who normally are the main beneficiaries of the activities performed by the Organization. Hence, there should be no margin for abuses and impunity.

There is a clear need to ensure proper accountability for all crimes committed by UN officials and experts on mission. We owe it to the victims, whose right to justice should be guaranteed, and we owe it to everyone who trusts the United Nations.

Brazil commends the Secretariat for the progress on addressing credible allegations of crimes that may have been committed by UN officials or experts on mission. We note with satisfaction that three UN entities and related organizations have submitted for the first time information about their relevant policies and procedures on the matter. While significant progress has been made, we agree with the Secretary General about the need to ensure more coherence and coordination of policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible allegations.

Mr. Chairman,

All member states should strive to overcome remaining legal challenges to assert jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals when they serve as United Nations officials or experts on mission. In this regard, it is important to promote international cooperation and assistance to requesting states whose domestic law does not envisage extraterritorial jurisdiction, so that they can put in place mechanisms to ensure accountability for such crimes.

Effective prosecution of these crimes also depends on a smooth coordination between states and the United Nations. Particularly, states should be promptly and adequately informed of criminal acts that may have been committed by their nationals serving as UN officials or experts on mission.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil expresses its serious concern over the instances of sexual violence, harassment, exploitation and abuse listed in the Secretary General's report. While it is encouraging to visualize instances in which there has been investigation and prosecution, it is also worrisome to see a considerable amount of cases lacking information from relevant sources. We take this opportunity to once again express our support to the zero-tolerance policy for misconduct and the commission of crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission. When implementing the zero-tolerance policy, due regard should be paid to the protection of victims' rights and to the observance of the rule of law.

In conclusion, Brazil reiterates its steadfast support to measures aimed at fighting impunity for serious crimes, including those committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission. By ensuring that credible allegations are properly investigated, perpetrators are brought to justice and victims find redress, we contribute to uphold the values that inspire the work of the United Nations.

Thank you.