



SLOVAKIA

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Matúš KOŠUTH

**Assistant Legal Adviser
International Law Department
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic**

**74th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixth Committee**

**Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on
mission
(item 76)**

New York, 10 October 2019

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor at the 74th session of the Sixth Committee, I wish to congratulate you and the other Bureau members on your appointment and wish you all the success in guiding the work of this Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Allow me, at the outset, to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission. It is especially useful to have received an overview of relevant policies and procedures of the Secretariat, funds, programmes and other entities, as well as specialized agencies and related organizations regarding credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed. With principal focus on the due investigation of allegations, protection of victims' rights and the need for legal certainty, we endorse the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in para. 28 of report A/74/142 which is aimed at creating coherence and coordination of policies and procedures in a broad range of international organisations and agencies. Slovakia further notes with appreciation that the *ClearCheck* database, launched and finalized last year, is now being duly used.

Mr. Chairman,

Even a single crime committed by a United Nations official or expert on mission is one too many, as it undermines the noble goals that the United Nations strives to achieve. It also diminishes the trust of those communities towards the international community that are in biggest need of assistance and help. For this reason, we support the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy for criminal activities and his efforts to fight impunity for crimes committed by personnel serving under the UN flag. However, the UN itself, without genuine cooperation from Members States, especially the State of nationality of the alleged perpetrator, cannot achieve the desired results. Therefore, we stress the crucial need for cooperation by Member States for the due investigation of allegations and the ensuing prosecution of alleged offenders, including by exercising their jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia wishes to appreciate the work of the UN Office of Legal Affairs in the exchange of information and the facilitation of a criminal investigation. In particular, we commend the cooperation provided to the Slovak authorities in relation to a criminal investigation allegedly involving a UN staff member conducted last year. Even though the defendant did not enjoy the status of UN official or expert on mission, as was eventually confirmed, the response from the UN Office of Legal Affairs was timely and comprehensive. It is in this context that we would like to further encourage the United Nations to continue providing the required cooperation in criminal investigations in timely manner, thus facilitating proper administration of justice.

I thank you.