

**Statement at the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Sixth Committee  
Agenda Item 77: Criminal accountability of United Nations  
officials and experts on mission  
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Thank you, Chair.

We would once again like to express our gratitude to the officials and experts on mission who perform the critical work of the United Nations. The vast majority of these officials and experts uphold the high standards of integrity expected of those working on behalf of the United Nations, and have earned our admiration.

We emphasize that the United Nations and its Member States must remain vigilant in protecting the credibility of the United Nations in carrying out this work, and clear-eyed about the effect incidents of criminal behavior by UN officials and experts on mission have on the public's confidence in the United Nations. The United States reiterates its firmly-held belief that UN officials and experts on mission should be held accountable for the crimes they commit.

The United States has taken note of the Secretary General's most recent report on this issue, and thanks the Secretary General and the relevant UN agencies for the progress noted in that report. In particular, the United States welcomes the changes to IAEA policies, regulations, rules, and procedures to facilitate more efficient investigation of reported misconduct and greater protections for whistleblowers. We look forward to learning more about the IAEA's new zero-tolerance anti-fraud policy, and hope that more forceful anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies are adopted by all agencies and organizations in the UN system. The United States likewise welcomes UNDP's revision of its internal guidelines to better facilitate the capture of information during an investigation, and the IMO's enhancement of its "internal justice system." We request that all UN programmes, specialized agencies, and related organizations continue to examine these issues and revise internal rules and procedures, with the goal of greater accountability for criminal conduct and sexual exploitation or abuse committed by UN officials and experts.

We welcome the United Nations' cooperation with U.S. authorities on various criminal investigations, even those that do not involve allegations against a UN

official, but about which the UN may have relevant information. The UN Office of Legal Affairs continues to implement the General Assembly's request for more follow up with Member States to which referrals of criminal allegations have been made when no response has been received, and we appreciate their readiness to assist, when requested, on all referrals.

Such referrals, or complaints made directly to national authorities, will only be meaningful when Member States can and do take action on them. We encourage all member states to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute such referrals and to communicate with the UN about any barriers they may face in doing so. We note in this regard the U.S. Department of Justice announcement, dated September 2, 2020, that Karim Elkorany, a former communications specialist with the United Nations in Iraq, was charged with two counts of making false statements to special agents of the FBI in an effort to conceal his drugging and sexual assault of multiple women while he worked for the UN.

We look forward to continued engagement in this Committee and with the Secretariat on this critical issue.

Thank you.