



United Nations General Assembly I Sixth Committee
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
14 October 2020

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil thanks the Secretary General for the two reports submitted this year about the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. They provide updated information about state practice and the policies and procedures of the UN entities to fight impunity.

For decades, tens of thousands of UN officials and experts have been diligently performing their duties and pursuing the purposes of the Organisation according to its Charter. The United Nations cannot allow that the misconduct of a few tarnish the achievements and the reputation of the UN. Every crime committed by UN officials and experts on mission taints the credibility of all other workers and compromise their ability to cooperate with governments and to interact with the population in the field.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil commends the Secretariat for the progress on addressing credible allegations of misconducts that may have been committed by UN officials or experts on mission. Whilst significant progress has been made, Brazil subscribes the appeal by the Secretary General for addressing practical problems in the implementation of policies related to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible crime allegations, in the respective specialized agencies and related organisations.

At the same time, 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. Members States whose domestic law does not envisage extraterritorial jurisdiction should put in place mechanisms to promote domestic accountability for those crimes committed by their nationals abroad so that they do not go unpunished.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil expresses its serious concern over the instances of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations reported by the Secretary General. It reiterates its support to the zero tolerance policy in the cases of sexual exploitation, abuse and other criminal conducts, while stressing the need for the strict observance of the rule of law.

Preventive and repressive measures should be combined to forestall these violations. It is particularly relevant to ensure that victims of crimes committed by UN officials and experts on mission receive adequate support and protection.

Brazil is proud of the overall track record of its peacekeepers in more than seventy years serving under the UN flag, and we have strict protocols in place to deal with any possible misconduct, including, if necessary, the criminal accountability of alleged perpetrators.

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. Ensuring that credible allegations are properly investigated, perpetrators are brought to justice and victims find justice and redress is key to uphold the values that inspire the work of the United Nations.

Thank you.