

STATEMENT

BY

TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE

AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

*"CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON
MISSION"*

AT THE 75TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

We thank you for giving us the floor to speak on this agenda item. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Cameroun and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

2. My delegation would like to begin by appreciating the Secretary-General's report on this agenda item. Also, Nigeria takes note of the information contained in agenda item A/75/228. Furthermore, my delegation commends the United Nations for the efforts made since the introduction of this agenda item.

3. Nigeria condemns acts of crime by UN Officials and continues to advocate that officials found culpable of such acts be held accountable. We strongly believe that UN Officials and Experts on Mission abroad are entrusted with the flag of the United Nations which they

are obliged to uphold with a sense of duty and responsibility.

Mr. Chairman

4. Nigeria is engaged in sensitization visits to Missions abroad with special teams that interact with, and sensitize its troops on the consequences, implications and impacts that any untoward actions could have on themselves, their country and the United Nations. We encourage more targeted orientation and awareness campaigns for officers on the risks of irresponsible behaviour and the United Nations' complete disapproval of such acts of indiscretion.

5. Nigeria commends the zero-tolerance policy of the UN concerning criminal conduct, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, committed by UN personnel and Experts on Mission. My delegation supports the idea to refer cases of alleged criminal conduct to the states of nationality of the official and expert on mission concerned, for investigation and possible prosecution,

and urge states to report to the Organization on steps taken thereafter.

6. My delegation encourages states to take necessary steps to prosecute their nationals for any offence committed while on mission, if necessary by adapting their national legislation to guarantee that the jurisdiction would be exercised.

Mr. Chairman

7. The Nigerian government has embarked on the provision of recreational activities for Nigerian peacekeepers at missions abroad, to boost their morale. The government of Nigeria has also approved a proposal for granting regular leaves and passes for Nigerian peacekeepers to enable them visit their families.

8. My delegation also believes that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse should not be stigmatized; rather, they should be given necessary care and support. The Nigerian government, having made contributions to the United Nations Sexual Exploitation

and Abuse Victims Compensation Fund, urges other member states to do same.

9. Nigeria is calling for the creation of a working environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse through the introduction of increased women's participation, improvement of personnel welfare, conduct of timely investigations, prosecutions of suspects and embarkment on training programmes.

Mr. Chairman

10. In conclusion, Nigeria continues to advocate that Officers should be rewarded for exemplary behaviour to encourage others, while bad behaviour should be punished without hesitation. We should at all times be mindful of how ordinary people around the world are impacted positively by the work that UN officials and Peacekeepers do, and must therefore work harder to ensure that no one is allowed to tarnish that.

11. I thank you for your attention.

