



SIXTH COMMITTEE

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Statement by

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Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on  
Mission

Agenda Item 79

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Thank you Madame Chair,

Israel welcomes the ongoing discussion on criminal accountability of United Nations officials, experts on mission, and members of peacekeeping forces. Israel also welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General to a zero-tolerance approach on sexual harassment by all United Nations personnel, and the initiatives of Member States to explore new channels to address impunity. In this vein, we were proud to co-sponsor the recent draft resolution put forth by Angola, Argentina, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea and Guyana on implementing a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel throughout the UN system.

Sadly, this agenda item encompasses a broader scope of grave criminal activity, including involvement in terrorism, fraud and corruption, and other serious offenses. It is Israel's position that measures should be taken to ensure that the zero-tolerance policy is also applied to all these criminal acts and that they be properly investigated and prosecuted.

As a country with significant engagement with the UN and its personnel, Israel attaches great importance to this topic, and wishes to underline the right and duty of the Secretary-General to waive immunity in any case where such immunity would impede the course of justice, and where immunity can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations. This is important not only to achieve justice and prevent impunity, but also to provide adequate redress for victims and their families.

In this regard, when immunity is not waived, Israel emphasizes the need for full transparency. We expect that the results of internal UN investigations of its personnel be made public, or at the very least to be shared with the relevant Member States. Efforts should also be made to increase oversight and to develop internal UN mechanisms for implementing disciplinary and punitive measures within the UN system. Israel further emphasizes the importance of collaborative efforts between the UN and the relevant Member State aimed at providing remedies to victims outside the formal judicial process.

It is Israel's strong belief that international cooperation is key to strengthening and improving existing mechanisms. We must all work together to develop new tools to prevent impunity and promote transparency and accountability.

Thank you, Madame Chair.