

Statement on behalf of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan
By
H.E. Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud
Before the Sixth Committee of the 76th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
On the item
"Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on
Mission"

Madam Chair,

At the outset, please allow me to begin by stating our alignment with the statements delivered on behalf of the non-align movement and OIC.

We would like to commend the Secretary-General for his reports on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. The dedication of the UN in conjunction, with that of member states on this matter, is greatly recognized and appreciated.

Madam Chair,

The work of peacekeeping and peace building personnel is essential to establishing peace and prosperity, promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating cooperation between nations on economic, social, and humanitarian problems. As public trust is paramount to the legitimacy of this organization, the success of this critical role in maintaining international peace is inextricably linked to the

credibility of the officials and experts on the mission. Therefore, we call on member states to heed the recommendation, by the secretary-general, regarding the enhancement of the UN system and related organizations to ensure the coherence and coordination of policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral, and follow-up of credible allegations of crimes committed by personnel.

Madam Chair,

The conduct of United Nations officials and experts on mission must exemplify the values and principles of the UN charter as well as the staff code of conduct in interactions with the national authorities and population. Tolerance and respect for the country's laws, regulations, culture, and religion must be present. We, therefore, stress the need to establish a zero-tolerance policy for misconduct by officials and experts on mission, particularly with regards to crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse. This has been a focal point for Jordan since 2005 when Prince Zeid introduced a comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We, therefore, commend the progress made by institutions and member states on this matter, as well as the bulletin issued by the Secretary-General on addressing discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority. Jordan is, however, concerned with the lack of scrutiny on such cases by national authorities as in only 10 of 67 cases involving United Nations

officials and experts on mission, did the secretariat receive updates. Accordingly, we call on member states to promote the policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral, and follow-up of credible allegations against the UN, especially in situations that fall outside the scope of General Assembly resolutions.

Madam Chair,

In article 10 of the Jordanian Penal Code number 16 of 1960, offenses committed by Jordanians operating abroad are criminalized. As such, Jordanian personnel in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and other missions are subject to Jordan's criminal jurisdiction and do not enjoy immunity before Jordanian courts. Cases have been brought by Jordanian prosecutors for offences committed by Jordanians participating in UN missions in the past and appropriate penalties were imposed by such courts. In this context, it is also imperative that states and the UN cooperate in bringing perpetrators to justice in a manner that would not infringe on the immunity of the organization. We note that the SG also decided in such cases involving criminal conduct of UN personnel to waive such immunities, for the interest of justice. Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance that we resolve the outstanding issues relating to the jurisdiction, particularly over crimes of a serious nature, to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. Thus, we remain supportive of a proposal for a comprehensive international legal framework to ensure that the

criminal conduct of United Nations officials and experts on mission is addressed. A proposal of this nature can also broach the jurisdictional gaps in our systems.

Madam Chair,

In closing, we wish to reiterate our commitment to the Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission.

The cooperation between nations serves as an invaluable tool to achieve accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

Thank you, Madam Chair.