



**Criminal Accountability of United Nations
Officials and Experts on Mission**

**Joint Statement
Explanation of Position
(Item 74)**

**UNGA 77 – Sixth Committee
November 2022**

**Delivered by Canada
Mr. Kristopher Yue**

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Mr./Madame Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of El Salvador, the European Union and its Member States, Georgia, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the United Kingdom, the United States, and my own delegation, Canada. This list of delegations includes those who tabled proposals or expressed support for new proposals this year on the resolution on Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

First, we wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the co-facilitators of this resolution, our distinguished colleagues from Bangladesh and Malaysia, for their able facilitation. Their persistent efforts in helping delegations reach consensus were noticed by all and greatly appreciated. They left no stone unturned, facilitating informal meetings between delegations up to the deadline. We are very grateful for their efforts.

It is clear that lack of criminal accountability for UN officials and experts on mission remains a problem. Where potential criminal conduct is referred by the United Nations to States, the majority of those referrals go unanswered. Despite these ongoing issues, the resolution on criminal accountability this year is essentially a technical rollover, but with an added reference to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

While our delegations welcome this important reference, we must express our significant disappointment with the lack of progress on the resolution as a whole.

Many of our delegations put forward meaningful, positive and modest proposals to strengthen the culture of accountability and prevent wrongdoing by UN personnel. Among others, these proposals underlined the importance of screening and vetting of UN personnel to be deployed on mission, of whistleblowing on wrongdoing and of addressing sexual harassment.

These proposals were supported by many States, from different regional groups, during negotiations. Only one State opposed them and provided no scope for compromise. Delegations that had put forward proposals worked tirelessly, including during numerous informal informals, to explore bridging proposals and to find compromise on language that could make some incremental progress on these important issues. And yet we heard no constructive proposals or alternatives in response. **Consensus in the Sixth Committee should be used to encourage dialogue and compromise, not as a tool to block meaningful progress.**

While our delegations are disappointed with the lack of meaningful progress this session, we sincerely hope that the Sixth Committee will be in a position to move forward constructively next year on these and other proposals. Tackling genuine issues of criminal accountability is a subject matter that is far too important to continue to avoid meaningful progress. We look forward to continuing meaningful dialogue in a constructive and open spirit so that proposals advancing criminal accountability can be adopted next year.

Thank you Mr./Madame Chair.