



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 76
“CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF UN OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS ON
MISSIONS”
BY MS. EDITH NGUNGU, FIRST COUNSELLOR
DURING THE
78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 OCTOBER 2023

Thank you Chair

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished Representative of Uganda. I make some remarks in my national capacity.
2. We thank the Secretary General for his report on this agenda item and encourage its continued improvement especially in elaboration of the challenges incurred in seeking accountability.
3. Kenya pays tribute to the many UN officials and experts on Missions who have devoted themselves to service to humanity in a profound manner. They exemplify the spirit of our common desire outlined in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
4. The duty that UN officials and experts on Missions have demands their service to be upheld in the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. It should

also be respectful of the laws, culture and values of their host countries and communities.

5. As a troop contributing country and host to one of the UN Offices with several agencies, funds and programmes operating from its territory, Kenya understands the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring that isolated incidents of misconduct are timeously and decisively dealt with to preserve the integrity and aims of the service.
6. The starting point must be at recruitment which should include thorough vetting and background checks to ensure that candidates have no criminal records. The recruitment process should also provide a sift of candidates through the organisation's values and principles.
7. Secondly, we cannot over-emphasise the critical importance of training to onboard all staff, officials and experts into the organisation's service code of conduct. Such training should, likewise focus on learning and understanding of a peoples' traditions, values and cultures before deployment to a specific place.
8. Third, Members States must continually remain responsible for accountability for acts committed within their territories or by their nationals. This will call for adoption of measures necessary for sufficient jurisdictional capacity over such matters. It also calls for proactively building capacity in the different aspects of accountability including; jurisdiction, investigation and prosecution. In this regard, we encourage cooperation, sharing of good practices among Members States and technical assistance by the UN.

9. As an organisation dedicated to serve humanity, we must all endeavour to provide the best possible clear support to victims of any criminal conduct by UN officials and experts on mission.

10. Finally, my delegation assures you, Chair, of our continued active participation in this discussion as we aim for nil returns on criminal conduct by UN officials and experts on Missions.

Thank you.