



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

**Joint Statement
Explanation of Position
(Item 76)**

**UNGA 77 – Sixth Committee
November 2023**

Delivered by Canada

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, the European Union and its Member States, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Serbia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and my own country Canada. We are delegations that tabled or expressed support for proposals this year on the resolution on Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

First, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to our colleagues Nasir and Azura from Bangladesh and Malaysia for their adept facilitation of this resolution and their sincere efforts to bring us together to try to find common ground. While a challenging task, they promoted discussion and engagement and maintained a positive spirit throughout the process.

Mr. Chair, we regret that, despite broad support, the Sixth Committee was once again unable to achieve consensus on any of the constructive proposals made by delegations during negotiations. Among these were several pragmatic proposals to bring further clarity to the resolution and the Secretary General's reporting, as well as Canada's proposal to request the Secretary General to look at potential practices to improve the screening and vetting procedures for UN personnel.

The UN's work throughout the world, including through the deployment of officials, experts and peacekeepers, remains essential. As such, we must continue to bolster the effectiveness of screening and vetting practices for deploying officials and experts on UN missions. This includes transparent mechanisms jointly owned by the UN and Member States, through a whole-of-system approach that includes proactive screening and vetting processes prior to deployment. Strengthening these measures in advance of deployment enhances the credibility of the UN and Member States and contributes to the safety of both UN staff and civilians by proactively reducing the probability of the deployment or redeployment of personnel who have engaged in criminal conduct.

The rationale for Canada's proposal is simply to initiate a discussion on how Member States and the UN can continue to strengthen screening and vetting, including through sharing of practices to understand what works well and what could be improved. We encourage the Secretary General to include some of these aspects and ideas in the oral briefing on this topic during next year's Sixth Committee in order to continue this conversation.

We sincerely appreciate the broad support of delegations on these proposals and note that opposition once again comes from a very small minority. That said, we hope that the Sixth Committee will be in a position to move forward constructively next year on these and other proposals for this important resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.