
Translated from Spanish

Republic of El Salvador

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

Report of the Republic of El Salvador pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/134

This report is being submitted by the Republic of El Salvador pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/134, in which the General Assembly strongly urged States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission did not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes were brought to justice.

With regard to the implementation of that resolution, El Salvador wishes to highlight that members of the Armed Forces of El Salvador participating in United Nations missions do so taking into account their obligation to respect the laws and customs of the country they are in and applicable international law.

As part of the screening process for personnel participating in United Nations missions, the Armed Forces of El Salvador implement internal procedures to verify that those persons have not committed any crimes, including sexual offences, corruption, financial crimes and violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, with a view to preventing the commission of crimes, a variety of awareness-raising training activities and talks concerning rigorous standards of conduct are delivered to ensure that all personnel selected to serve do so in accordance with the standards in place, including the Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets and other standards of conduct.

With regard to legislation, as indicated in previous sessions, El Salvador has taken the necessary measures to establish jurisdiction over crimes committed by its nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as the Penal Code of El Salvador recognizes not only the territorial principle but also the personality principle and the universality principle in the application of criminal law.

The Armed Forces of El Salvador do not currently have a register of Salvadoran personnel that have committed, or allegedly committed, crimes of a serious nature while on a peacekeeping mission. There have therefore been no cases requiring extradition, investigation or the launch of criminal proceedings. However, El Salvador recognizes its legal duty to investigate crimes and exercise jurisdiction, and it has a system in place to provide, under specific circumstances, information that could be used as evidence in the country in which a crime has been committed.

In view of the foregoing, El Salvador reaffirms its commitment to the adoption of measures to prevent the commission of crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission and ensure that such crimes do not go unpunished.