

*Translated from Arabic*

**Response of Qatar to General Assembly resolution 72/112 concerning criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**

**Annex to communication No. 27099, dated 12 March 2018, from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations**

With respect to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, Qatar agrees with the Organization that United Nations officials and experts on mission and external assignments in Member and non-member States should be held criminally accountable if they commit an act that is a crime under the domestic laws of a State, because that would ensure the primacy of national law and the national judiciary, put limits on the absolute privileges and immunities that those officials enjoy and prevent them from abusing their international position. The reality is that some officials have shown themselves to be corrupt and have engaged in sexual abuse, in particular the members of peacekeeping operations and the Organization's agencies, funds and programmes. However, Qatar warns that allowing States to hold international officials and mission members criminally accountable necessarily means limiting the privileges and immunities enjoyed by those serving in that capacity. There is no doubt that placing such limits will ultimately affect the neutrality and impartiality of officials when fulfilling their duties in Member States, because the privileges and immunities that officials enjoy are intended to enable them to fulfil their duties in a flexible and transparent manner, and without being pressured by Member States. Qatar therefore believes that the limits placed on the immunities and privileges enjoyed by officials of the United Nations and its agencies and funds must conform to certain rules and conditions, so that officials can enjoy freedom of movement and the flexibility they need to do their jobs in a transparent and impartial manner. However, officials must not be allowed to abuse their positions and immunities to carry out acts that might be considered crimes, such as the violations previously mentioned. One such rule could be that a United Nations official must be present during criminal accountability procedures. Other conditions could include requiring that the United Nations should be informed of every act that might constitute a crime, restricting accountability to acts that are serious natural crimes, such as murder, theft, embezzlement, sexual assault and bribery, and applying this to all Organization officials, regardless of their rank or title.

It should be noted that Qatar has contributed personnel to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and none of them have committed any violations or crimes.

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**Additional information submitted by Qatar in relation to General Assembly resolution 72/112 concerning criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**

**Annex to communication No. 34635, dated 9 May 2018, from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations**

Article 18 of the Penal Act (law No. 11 of 2004) provides that any Qatari who is outside Qatar and commits an act that is considered to be a felony or misdemeanour under the present Act shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions thereof if he returns to Qatar, if the act is punishable under the law of the country in which it was committed.

Accordingly, any national of Qatar who is a United Nations official shall be subject to the provision of the Penal Code of Qatar no matter where the crime may have been committed, even if that happens to be outside the territory of Qatar.

According to the records of the Public Prosecutor of Qatar, there is no evidence that any nationals of Qatar who are also United Nations officials have committed any crimes in the course of service.

Qatar reiterates that it is willing to cooperate in respect of judicial matters, in accordance with articles 407 and 433 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, with any country that hosts United Nations operations and to exchange information pertaining to investigations, in accordance with the laws that are in force in Qatar.