

*Translated from French*

## **Sixth Committee**

### **Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**

#### **Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 74/181 of 18 December 2019**

#### **Input of Belgium**

In response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 10 January 2020 concerning the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, Belgium has the honour to convey the following information.

In 2018, Belgium received a report of a serious offence allegedly committed by a Belgian national serving as a United Nations official or expert on mission. Since then, Belgium has informed the Secretary-General of the measures taken in this case and has responded to every request for information from the Secretary-General.

Belgium also has the honour to transmit herewith updated responses to the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 74/181 of 18 December 2019 and contained in the annex to the related report of the Secretary-General (A/71/167). This update was made necessary by changes to Belgian legislation since 2018.

Belgian military personnel who are deployed abroad, including as United Nations experts on mission, receive a briefing before their departure as part of their predeployment training, which covers, among other things, the rules to be observed in the country and the steps to be taken when they witness an offence. Standard operating procedures have been developed that specify the authorities competent to carry out an investigation, the actions to be taken and the lines of conduct to be followed when an offence is committed.

A serious incident notification procedure is also in place for military personnel. The procedure includes a form, available electronically to all defence personnel, that is to be completed by detachment commanders when a serious incident occurs during a mission, of which the prosecutor's office must be notified.

Within the federal police, the Military Crime Division (DJMM), a specialized unit working with the armed forces, makes regular visits to contingents abroad and can be deployed at the request

of the competent federal judicial authorities when an act constituting a serious offence is committed by Belgian military personnel abroad.

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