



**Permanent Mission of Finland to the  
United Nations**

New York

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## **VERBAL NOTE**

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Legal Affairs and has the honour to refer to OLA's note no. LA/COD/50/1 of 11 January 2022 submits the following information concerning criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/106 of 9 December 2021.

Finland remains ready to consider a proposal for a comprehensive international legal framework to ensure that criminal conduct of UN officials and experts on mission is addressed. We welcome the Committee's further elaboration on this issue under the 77th General Assembly.

Finland would like to inform the Secretary-General that no crimes of a serious nature committed by Finnish nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission have been brought to the attention of the Finnish authorities. Nor are the Finnish authorities aware of any allegations, investigations or proceedings against Finnish nationals suspected of having committed such crimes while serving as United Nations officials and experts on mission. Should such allegations be made, all appropriate measures would be taken to investigate and prosecute those crimes in accordance with Finnish law.

Finland would further like to submit that the Regulation of the Defence Forces on military superiors entitled to exercise disciplinary powers (HQ1033/16 December 2020) lays down provisions on disciplinary powers in crisis management. A disciplinary superior decides whether a criminal investigation is to be initiated and whether it is to be transferred to the Defence Command or the police. If necessary, the disciplinary superior may also report the suspected offence to the police in those cases where the Defence Forces themselves cannot conduct a criminal investigation. Under the law, the police or an official of the Defence Command acting as the lead investigator may also decide to initiate a criminal investigation. Under Finnish law, criminal investigation must be initiated if there is reason to suspect an offence, and criminal investigation authorities must investigate all suspected offences unless otherwise provided by law. The Defence Forces considers it important to investigate all suspected offences committed by soldiers deployed in operations.

Finnish military training includes training on international humanitarian law, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and on how to intervene in such crimes. Training on these subjects is also included in the training of military personnel preceding their missions abroad. In addition, before military personnel are posted to the receiving country, they are given training on such subjects as legislation applicable to them, the legal accountability of soldiers under national and international law, and gender equality and gender issues. The Defence Forces has also issued regulations on this subject that are binding on all soldiers. The purpose of the training and regulations is to prevent and counter unwanted behaviour and crime.

Finland would also like to refer to its response submitted in 2016 to the Questionnaire on Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, which remains valid.

The Permanent Mission of Finland avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Legal Affairs the assurances of their highest consideration.

New York, 31 May 2022