



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

Item 78: Criminal Accountability of Former United Nations Officials

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express our appreciation for the report, A/68/215, on "Criminal Accountability of Former United Nations Officials".

Criminal Accountability is the responsibility of the States of nationality and all Member States should make every effort to ensure that those responsible for the crimes are held accountable.

The Republic of Korea is convinced that bringing UN personnel who committed crimes to justice is a crucial part of our ongoing fight against impunity. If such persons are not prosecuted through an appropriate procedure, the United Nations may create a precedent where experts can improperly abuse immunity for the sole purpose of protecting the misuses of their immunities and bring about serious damage to the credibility and impartiality of the UN itself.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to note with appreciation that the Office of Legal Affairs referred the cases of 9 United Nations Officials of States of nationality for investigation and prosecution this year. My delegation would like to emphasize that the States of nationality should take the necessary steps forward, including thorough investigation in cooperation with the UN.

... is also of the view that it is inappropriate for the Office of the Legal Affairs of one State to be involved in the investigation of the activities of another State, as well as the final results of cases within the jurisdiction of that State. My delegation would like to refer to the three States to which referrals were made had not indicated to the OLA that the matter had been discussed with relevant authorities. My delegation would like to commend the OLA for its efforts to prevent illegal retaliations and restore the reputation of those who were under false accusations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Kenya believes that one of the most important responsibilities of the United Nations is the prevention of possible crimes committed by UN personnel. My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts and the practical steps he has taken to ensure the concluding notion of his report. This report was a significant contribution to the maintenance of the standards of conduct by which means are used to ensure that the United Nations remains a credible institution.

My delegation believes that it is the responsibility of all Member States to make a concerted effort to prevent and punish crimes committed by UN personnel. It is important to emphasize the value of discipline and the importance of training prior to deployment. The quality of training performed by each Member State is crucial to the success of UN operations.

For example, the Republic of Kenya provides a three-month intensive training course to the selected personnel for Peacekeeping Operations. They have been chosen through a rigorous selection process among many able soldiers, and are in fact trained by the highest quality of professional units. The fortified training program provides a high level of discipline and professionalism.

My delegation believes that both the United Nations and the Member States must work together alongside each other to end impunity and to prevent crimes committed by UN personnel. It is the responsibility of all Member States to ensure that the United Nations remains a credible institution. Experts, indeed, the OLA should be empowered to investigate and report on such matters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.