





criminal accountability is a fundamental pillar of the rule of law, and it is crucial for safeguarding the integrity as well as protecting the trust, which we all share in our organization (the United Nations).

Criminal conduct has a negative indelible impact on the credibility of any organization including this one (the United Nations). As a result, the African group carefully deemed it necessary and important for this Organization to give a clear political signal that will condemn and exorcise criminal behavior.

We take note as always of the apparent suggestions in the Secretary-General's report on the rule of law, which emphasize the legislative advantage and capacity to exercise jurisdiction, while others have some provisions for at least a limited exercise of jurisdiction. The African Group encourages Member States to exercise jurisdiction in applicable cases in order to ensure zero tolerance for impunity.

Mr. Chair,

It will be recalled that, in the deliberations of our past meetings, several delegations expressed the view, with which the African Group concurs, that the existence of jurisdictional gaps in ensuring accountability leads to the repetitive commission of crimes. This is particularly so in the case of the African continent.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group also welcomes the measures implemented by the United Nations regarding existing training on UN standards of conduct, including through pre-deployment and in-mission induction training and awareness raising programmes. We further welcome the technical assistance offered by the UN to Member States requesting support in developing their domestic criminal law to combat and deter such degrading and demeaning offence of a serious nature.

The expertise that the UN offers goes a long way in developing and strengthening national capacities to investigate and prosecute serious crimes, especially in the context of mutual legal assistance and extradition. In the same vein, the Group continues to encourage States to cooperate with each other in criminal investigations and/or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by UN officials and experts on mission.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, the African Group welcomes the opportunity to utilize the meetings of the Sixth Committee to exchange views with other regional groups and delegations on this important topic with a view to coming up with concrete measures.

I thank you.