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Madam Chair,

The occasional reproachable behaviour of United Nations officials or experts on mission can compromise the credibility of the Organization and of its agents. Impunity, or the mere perception of undue protection to wrongful behaviours, is detrimental to the Organization.

The sound administration of justice is thus key for the ability of the United Nations to fulfil its mandates. That is why this topic is of the utmost relevance.

Madam Chair,

Portugal deeply appreciates of the constant commitment and leadership of the Secretary-General on this topic and acknowledges the equally important role of the Office of Legal of Legal Affairs.

We thank the Secretary-General for his two reports. They are useful repositories of important information on these matters.

Madam Chair,

It is important that States establish national frameworks suitable to ensure criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission, namely by allocating adequate and effective resources for States to exercise their jurisdiction.

With several nationals deployed as UN officials or experts on mission, Portugal takes very seriously any crime, or allegations thereof, that may involve them and that are brought to the attention of Portuguese authorit