

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

**Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 74:

"Criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission"

United Nations

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia , Albania and the Republic of Moldova, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia, and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr. /Madam Chair,

Peace, security, stability, rule of law and protection of civilian population from the scourge of war are the central purpose of the United Nations. Since the first peacekeeping operation in 1948, brave UN officials and experts have risked their own lives to selflessly serve these universal goals. We commend them for their bravery and thank them for their service.

The EU and its Member States believe that each individual country should ensure that personnel they deploy maintain the professional and personal standards of behaviour in order to successfully fulfil the mission's mandate. It is invaluable for all officials and experts on missions to not only possess professional expertise, but to have respect for the laws and regulations of the host country and be sensitive to local traditions, culture and religion. Education, pre-deployment training, vetting and awareness-raising have proved effective to sensitize personnel to local culture and traditions. These actions have proven to be the best kind of preventative measures. Our goal is to significantly lower the incidents of misconduct and criminal acts by officials and experts on missions and at the same time establish rigorous standards for investigation and prosecution.

Mr. /Madam Chair,

The primary responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of alleged crimes conducted

circumstances under which UN Member States can exercise jurisdiction, as well as the categories of individuals and crimes subject to that jurisdiction. Nobody is above the law and we will continue to work towards ending impunity.

Thank you.