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STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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**AGENDA ITEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE ENTITLED
CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS
AND EXPERTS ON MISSION (AGENDA ITEM 76)**

10th October, 2023
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ
New York

My delegation concurs with the view that ensuring criminal accountability of United Nations personnel and experts on mission and securing justice for victims must be a shared responsibility of the Member States and the United Nations. In that respect, we encourage close cooperation on investigations of criminal offenses, extradition processes, prosecution and measures for the protection of witnesses where necessary.

To close existing jurisdictional gaps, we also encourage Member States to adopt at the national level, regulations and policies that allow for the prosecution of their nationals found culpable of criminal offenses while in the service of the United Nations.

My delegation has in previous sessions expounded the rules and regulations of the Ghana Armed Forces which provide the legal basis for competent jurisdiction over its men cited in criminal offenses during peacekeeping operations. We take this opportunity to reiterate our unwavering commitment to take all appropriate measures to ensure accountability on the part of Ghanaian nation also on missions.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, we emphasize the importance of prevention as a crucial measure to avoid impunity and affirm our support for measures outlined in Chapter VIII of the Secretary - * H Q H U D O - V U H S R U W F R Q the strengthening of existing pre-deployment , training and vetting measures. We also look forward to reports on the scaling up of the reinforcement training package following its successful piloting.

We believe that the distinctive blue beret of the United Nations must continue to inspire confidence and the hope of peace in every place they are deployed. We therefore look forward to continuing discussions on this issue with the view to enhancing our collective capacities to ensure effective accountability for criminal offences committed by personnel and experts on mission to avoid impunity.

I thank you.