

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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1. The delegation of Sierra Leone respectfully aligns this statement with the statements delivered by the Distinguished Representatives of the on behalf of the African Group, and the on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his reports and . We take note of the contents thereof.
3. Sierra Leone reiterates its acknowledgment that a great majority of UN officials and experts on mission perform their duties with admiration, courage, and integrity; often in challenging circumstances, upholding the high standards expected of UN personnel. We, however, also note the existence of regrettable criminal conduct and behaviour, for which, accountability is critical for global confidence and trust in our Organization.

4. We strongly believe that peacekeeping personnel or experts on missions are obligated to act with the highest standards of integrity, both in the performance of their official duties and

investigation, and delivering specialist knowledge and skills for dealing with complex and traumatic investigations, will enable police officers to support the most vulnerable victims and bring more perpetrators to justice.

10. We are pleased to note that such a training is being rolled out across our neighboring countries, and we look forward to its full application as we call for more member States, with the capability to do so, to extend such much needed capacity support to particularly Troop Contributing Countries.

11. At the national level, we continue to strengthen and advance legislative and policy documents as standalone and supplemented initiatives to end SGBV and bring perpetrators to justice. In further focusing on ensuring accountability for SGBV and, in particular SEA, we continue to closely monitor the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution - "International Cooperation on access to Justice, Remedies and assistance to Survivors of Sexual Violence" to ensure we advance its main objective and provide access to justice for SGBV survivors.

12. Sierra Leone wishes to further highlight the reported number of fraud and corruption cases with grave concern. As this is a significant integrity issue, which would lead to a trust deficit, continual active engagement with the ad hoc committee to develop sustainable strategies to combat the scourge of corruption is urged.
13. Finally, and on the exercise of jurisdiction, Sierra Leone wishes to reiterate its belief that State of nationality should have precedence over the host country on the issue of criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission. We, therefore, appreciate the Organization's efforts to refer credible allegations of criminal conduct to the State of nationality and urges all States to comply with the relevant UN resolutions.
14. In closing, , let me affirm the view that ultimately member States are morally compelled not to allow privileges and immunities granted to UN personnel to be used as a shield to commit criminal acts with impunity.
15. I thank you.