6th Committee of the 79

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Session of the UNGA
(Agenda Item 76)

15 October 2024 “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on Mission”
Statement by India
Mr. Chairman,
India aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the NAM. In our national

capacity, we would like to add the following remarks.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Report of the Secretary General A/79/189 on “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, submitted pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 78/102. The instances of crimes being committed by the United Nations officials and experts on mission seriously undermines the image, credibility and integrity of the Organization. We strongly condemn all kind of crimes committed by them which defeats the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The report provides updates to policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible allegations revealing that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission and to develop recommendations to help to ensure that the relevant policies and procedures are coherent, systematic and coordinated throughout the United Nations system.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with appreciation that the reporting mechanismlooo policies misseAfmiss

found guilty, punish the accused officials concerned. It is a matter of concern to see the

significant number of instances where States to which allegations have been referred to,

are failing to report on the steps taken in response to such referrals.

We acknowledge that the primary responsibility to hold perpetrators accountable

lies with member States. Achieving this objective can only be realized through

collaborative efforts and cooperation between States and the UN, with each fulfilling

their respective roles. It is essential for the UN to promptly inform and consult the State

of nationality of the alleged offender. Equally important is that the State acts swiftly,

establishes and exercises jurisdiction, conducts investigations and prosecute when

warranted.

The General Assembly resolution 78/102 strongly urges all those States which

have not yet done so to consider establishing, jurisdiction over crimes, of a serious

nature, committed by their nationals while on the United Nations mission, serving as its

officials or experts on mission, at least where such conduct is considered as crime or

illegal under their laws and also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host state and,

further, urges States and international organizations concerned to provide technical and

other appropriate assistance in developing such legal measures to those States requesting

for such support or assistance. Implementation of this element would help fill the

jurisdictional gap in respect of member States, which do not assert extra-territorial

jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad by their nationals.

In conclusion we would like to re-iterate the need for regular contribution to the

Secretary General’s Trust fund created to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

India has been regularly contributing and hopes that all the member States would do the

same. We would like to re-iterate that India ascribes to the zero tolerance policy and

considers it extremely important that violation of any national or international law by the

UN officials and experts on mission is properly investigated and prosecuted. The UN

officials and experts should act and perform their duties in a manner consistent with the

UN Charter that promotes the image, credibility and integrity of the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chair man.