

Mr. Chairman,

The agenda item under discussion is of great importance to Ethiopia as it is one of the active member states in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, and home to several United Nations Offices, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Ethiopia greatly values the sacrifices made by the United Nations peacekeepers and commends the work of the United Nations in the preservation of global peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

My delegation, however, would like to share the concerns of many countries that crimes committed by some of United Nations officials and experts on mission have continued to negatively impact the execution of mandates of the organization and tarnish the sacrifices and relentless efforts of most of its employees in peacekeeping activities. Such crimes have not only seriously undermine the Organization's image, integrity and credibility in the long term, but also cause grave harm to the immediate victims, and deeply affect the cooperation between the United Nations and the host country, which is critical to the successful completion of the mission.

The United Nations senior officials and other staff, shouldering heavy responsibility in such sensitive and complex situations, are expected to adhere to the highest standards of discipline and the rule of law, and have also a duty to abide by the law of the host State. This is critically important for implementing their mandate successfully with integrity and respect.

Hence, it is of paramount importance to ensure that criminal acts must not remain unpunished, and that the perpetrators are prosecuted without delay. That is the

commission of the crime due to immunity the person enjoys. The only precondition is that the offence shall be punishable both under the Ethiopian criminal code and under the law of the country where it was committed. My Government is committed to take all appropriate measures to ensure accountability and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice.