



Mr. Chair,

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

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

The European Union and its Member States welcome the Secretary General's report in document A/69/210 on the implementation of resolution 68/105. We underline our continued support for a zero tolerance policy for crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and more generally for a coherent approach within the Organization to establish the "age of accountability"; in particular when serious crimes are committed.

While upholding the privileges and immunities of UN officials and experts on mission it is expected that international law and national legislation of the host State shall be respected by such personnel and no crime committed by them should go unpunished.

Impunity for crimes of a serious nature committed by UN officials and experts on mission would have long term detrimental effects on the credibility of the Organisation and its effectiveness. Therefore, impunity for such crimes should not be tolerated, for the victims and the host States, and for the reputation of the UN.

In this respect, the EU and its Member States welcome the Rights Upfront initiative; we also welcome special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and reiterate that proper investigation must take place into allegations of criminal conduct where reported against UN officials and experts on mission.

While the primary responsibility for bringing offenders to justice lies with States themselves in conformity with the principle of complementarity enshrined in the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court should exercise its jurisdiction where the preconditions to the exercise of the Court's jurisdiction are fulfilled and national authorities are unable or unwilling to genuinely prosecute the most serious crimes.

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*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

We note that training and awareness-raising on UN standards of conduct should remain at the centre of the preventive measures adopted by field missions and welcome the implementation of such additional measures at UN Headquarters level by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

The EU and its Member States acknowledge that cooperation between States and with the UN in