



Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations  
19 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017  
[www.ghanamissionun.org](http://www.ghanamissionun.org)

THE SIX TH COMMITTEE AT THE 76<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS  
AND EXPERTS ON 0,66,21 μ  
(AGENDA ITEM 74)

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5<sup>th</sup> October,2022  
Security Council Chamber,  
United Nations,  
New York

*Mr. Chairman,*

1. Ghana aligns itself with the statements of the African Group and the Non Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively.
2. Having been a long-standing Troop Contributing Country of the United Nations, Ghana welcomes the discussion by the Sixth Committee on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. I would like to make the following remarks.
3. At the outset, we wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring criminal accountability of UN Personnel whose actions impinge directly on the integrity and credibility of our organization. Member States have also widely acknowledged that holding UN Personnel accountable for their actions is necessary for the promotion of the cardinal principle of the Rule of Law within the United Nations system.
  - i. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General under this agenda item and express our support for system-wide coherence and coordination of policies and procedures relating to the reporting, investigation, referral and follow-up of credible allegations revealing that a crime may have been committed.

ii. We remain supportive of the Secretary's policy of zero tolerance for crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including those involving sexual exploitation and abuse, and urge Member States to adopt a similar stance on misconduct and criminal acts committed by their personnel serving with UN Missions. All allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, corruption, fraud and other forms of misappropriation of funds must be addressed without delay, to ensure that the perpetrators are not only punished but also serve as deterrence to others.

4. Second, we reaffirm our support for the view that the primary responsibility for investigations and prosecutions concerning United Nations officials and experts on mission must rest with the State of nationality of the official or expert in question. In this regard, we urge Member States to promulgate requisite national laws that establish jurisdiction over such criminal acts to ensure accountability by their national. On our part, Ghana remains fully committed to the effective implementation of its Armed Forces Act (1962) and Code of Service Discipline which both ensure that all allegations of misconduct or crimes made against its personnel or omission are thoroughly investigated and appropriate sanctions applied where culpability has been established.

5. Third, we underscore the need for continued efforts to address jurisdictional gaps. Also, factors which obstruct effective accountability measures at national levels such as the late submission of evidence, loss of evidence and sometimes the refusal by victims and witnesses to testify must be addressed through enhanced cooperation between concerned Member States and the United Nations
6. Fourth, we believe that strengthening preventive measures and ensuring effective protection, especially of women and girls who may be vulnerable to sexual abuse is crucial to reducing the occurrence of criminal conduct by UN personnel to its barest. Rigorous induction and in-service training on acceptable standards of conduct and the repercussions for violating those standards must therefore be sustained for all levels of personnel. We have taken note of the [training package](#) which is to be made available in all official United Nations languages and look forward to further information on its overall impact on service conduct of UN personnel.
7. [Our](#) commitment to ensuring that only officers of the highest professional and ethical standards are deployed for UN Missions in support of global efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security

*I thank you for your kind attention.*