

**on Agenda Item 74 entitled  
Criminal Accountability of UN Officials and Experts on Mission  
at the Sixth Committee  
6 October 2022**

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Mr. Chair,

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for the two reports submitted under this agenda item.

We also greatly appreciate the annual briefings provided by the Secretariat to the Committee on this important issue and look forward to this year's briefing.

Mr. Chair,

It is our firm conviction that we need to continue to work collectively in order to prevent the committing of crimes by UN officials and experts on mission, as well as to ensure accountability when this happens.

This first and foremost requires the adoption and enhancement as necessary by States of their national legislation to effectively exercise criminal jurisdiction over such crimes, including especially when they are committed by their own nationals.

Needless to say, constructive and efficient cooperation between States, as well as between the UN and States constitutes a crucial component of this collective endeavor.

We need not forget that this organization is evaluated by many on the basis of the observance in practice of the fundamental values, standards and norms that we champion, and the effective implementation around the world of the decisions and resolutions that we adopt on topics of global concern.

When officials and experts of this august organization commit serious crimes, and when those crimes are not addressed as appropriate in line with the applicable legal framework, this will inevitably have broader negative consequences. In this regard, we support the message given by the General Assembly annually on this topic, which honors the invaluable work of the tens of thousands of UN officials and experts on mission, while pointing to the risk that the actions of a few may disproportionately tarnish the reputation of the United Nations.

Mr. Chair,

As we have articulated in detail in our contributions to the Secretary-General's reports of 2018, 2019 and 2020, Turkish legislation contains the necessary rules, procedures and safeguards to ensure that jurisdiction can be exercised over crimes committed by Turkish nationals abroad, including when serving as United Nations officials or experts, as well as crimes committed by third country nationals subject to the relevant legal requirements. We also have laws in place for the protection of victims and witnesses.

In this regard, we note the privileges and immunities enjoyed by UN officials and experts on mission in line with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, as well as the conditions and considerations pertaining to waiver of such privileges and immunities by the Secretary-General.

In respect of cooperation, Türkiye is party to several international and bilateral agreements regulating legal cooperation on criminal matters and extradition. With respect to States with which we do not have an agreement, or which are not party to a convention to which Türkiye is a party, we undertake cooperation on the basis of reciprocity, in accordance with the Law on International Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters.

As highlighted in our previous written contributions, there is also no obstacle in our legislation that would prevent our authorities from accepting information and material obtained from the United Nations for the purposes of criminal proceedings.

Mr. Chair,

We appreciate that the Secretary-General continues to bring to the attention of States credible allegations relating to crimes that may have been committed by UN officials and experts on mission, and appeals to States

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Turkish authorities also organize educational programs on international humanitarian law that are open to international participation. In this context, the