## Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

## Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

On behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

New York, 10 October 2023

Mr.

are particularly grave because of the nature of the functions of the perpetrators, and the special vulnerability of the persons victimized, who usually are in the grip of conflict. The commission of these crimes has a detrimental effect on the fulfillment of the United Nations mandates and on the credibility of the Organization as a whole. This causes serious damage to the victims and the reputation of the UN.

In this regard, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel of the United Nations perform its duties in a manner that is fully compliant with international human rights law, preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations and upholds its highest ideals.

Mr. Chair,

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States would like to thank the Secretary-General for the report contained in document A/78/248. The report shows, in section II, the information provided by Member States since 2007 on the establishment of jurisdiction over their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission in relation to crimes established in their current criminal law, particularly those of a serious nature. We take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/78/237), where Section II sets out all the policies and procedures of the United Nations in relation to the allegations referred to in paragraphs 30 and

Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse into a full-time one at the level of Under-Secretary-General in September 2022 was a decisive step to strengthen UN responses to allegations of such nature.

In light of repeated incidents, it is clear that we need to do much more, as members of the international community, to collectively combat impunity associated with such crimes. As in previous years, we have been made aware of allegations of sexual abuse and excessive use of force by some peacekeepers.

Mr. Chair,

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States takes note, in particular, of the information prepared by the Secretariat contained in Section IV of the report A/78/248 issued under the current agenda item, regarding the Cooperation between States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecutions, and protection of victims and witnesses in this process. CELAC reiterates the importance we attach to receiving continuous information from the Secretariat on statistics about substantiated allegations. We believe that improving on the reporting practice will always benefit our understanding of this problem so that we can address it properly.

In this regard, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the quality of the information and ensure its imng y Tf1 0 0 1 i7(n)-24(2) or mia()-ns report 7(e)7(a)7(d()-92M Tf1 0)21(m)7(or-20(i)7(c(2on)21(b)-20(

the need for the observance of the rule of law for its implementation. We are at a critical juncture where more is expected of the United Nations, particularly as it relates to set