

Statement by Mr. Yahya Aref, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations  
On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement  
Before the Sixth Committee

78<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
on Agenda Item 76:

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New York, 10 October 2023

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement takes note of the Reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/78/275 and A/78/248 on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 77/98, which contains information on the policies and procedures of the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes and other entities regarding any credible allegations that reveal a crime which may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission as well as recommendations to help ensure that such policies and procedures are coherent, systematic and coordinated throughout the United Nations system.

Particularly, we take note of the recommendation that the United Nations system entities should continue to utilize their internal networks to measure the adequacy of their existing policies and procedures to identify potential disparities as well as to promote enhanced cooperation on cross-cutting issues, such as financial recovery.

We also request the Secretary-General to continue to improve reporting methods

The Non-Aligned Movement takes note of the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee in the framework of a Working Group on the criminal accountability of the United Nations officials and experts on mission over the course of its three sessions held in 2007, 2008 and 2012. The topic of the Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission was placed on the agenda of the Sixth Committee over a decade ago, and the UN has taken important as well as timely steps since. However, there is still a long way until an ideal situation is actualized.

The NAM underlines the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. We urge the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing the activities of the United Nations.

In this sense, we take note of the comprehensive strategy on assistance and support for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel, which was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 62/214. This strategy will help mitigate the suffering of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as offer social support, legal services and medical attention, among other things.

It is also important that the victims of criminal conduct perpetrated by United Nations officials and experts on mission are made aware of available victim support programs.

We also believe that the full implementation by all Member States of General Assembly Resolution 77/98 as well as previous General Assembly resolutions adopted pertaining to the Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission could contribute to bridging any jurisdictional gaps, if they exist, and will strengthen accountability mechanisms as well as contribute to guaranteeing due process with respect to investigating acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. Moreover, the development of harmonized United Nations

