## [check against delivery]



## Sixth Committee

Statement by Angelique van der Made - Wesselink Senior policy officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Second, UN peacekeepers serve the cause of peace and security, making sacrifices to contribute to a common goal, which is not without risk. As a result, it is particularly unacceptable for a UN peacekeeper to become a victim of misconduct or a crime committed by fellow peacekeepers. While having more female peacekeepers is an important factor contributing to the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, female peacekeepers remain at higher risk of discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse themselves. This underlines that, addressing the root causes of discrimination against women, sexual harassment and abuse in UN peacekeeping missions, by focusing on both prevention and response, requires our continued attention.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to especially emphasize the importance of prevention through measures such as the screening and training of UN officials and experts, and pre-deployment vetting of UN