

UNGA 72: Sixth Committee Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission (Agenda Item 78)

Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ)

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6 October 2017

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I have the honour today of speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

United Nations officials and experts on mission play an important role in creating the conditions for lasting peace. Every day tens of thousands of individuals from countries across the globe are engaged in protecting civilians, supporting development, delivering humanitarian assistance and helping to rebuild societies, all in the name of the United Nations. These people are trusted to use their positions of relative power to assist thousands of the most vulnerable people in the world. CANZ commends this admirable

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encourage States to provide advice on any obstacles to effective prosecution they may encounter, whether jurisdictional, evidentiary or otherwise.

If our commitment to the rule of law is to be more than rhetoric, the UN and its Member States must lead by example. We encourage the international community to hold individuals to account for the deplorable criminal conduct that undermines the work of the United Nations. We therefore support, in principle, the proposal for a convention that would require Member States to exercise criminal jurisdiction over their nationals participating in UN operations abroad. We would welcome further discussions on the feasibility of such a convention.

In closing the impunity gap, it is important that Member States and the UN develop a culture in which individuals are encouraged and supported to report alleged crimes, and appropriate safeguards against retaliation are established.

Finally, CANZ reiterates the call for the continued implementation of the zero-tolerance policy. No one, including UN officials and experts on mission, United Nations to the world, should be above or outside the law.

Thank you.