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Committee: GA-6

Issue: The issue of criminal accountability of UN officials and representatives.

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Introduction

- The United Nations is there to promote international cooperation. When founded they committed to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among Nations, promote social progress and to promote better living standards and human rights. However, the problem is that the many UN officers have unfortunately not stuck to their promises. These officers consistently have many crimes reported every year and still till this day this issue hasn't been solved.
- The members of the United Nations play a vital role in our lives and many people rely on them to uphold the highest standards while conducting their missions. The current rules of the UN states that criminal misconduct which get reported against the UN members cannot be prosecuted hence the problem still continues- all disciplinary measures are as yet administrative and not criminal. Sadly, due to such behaviour conducted by the Officers, people have slowly started to lose trust in the United Nations. This has made it difficult for the UN to carry of their missions.
- As challenging as the issue may seem, it is not one without a solution. With a push for the right policies and the correct execution of it, those already living in conflict and terror will have one less problem to fear. As the new era of conflict unfolds, it is vital that UN staff and experts can cooperate with civilians to alleviate the situation through mutual trust



Background Information

- At its 70th session, the General Assembly urged States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice. The Assembly reaffirmed various measures adopted in previous resolutions aimed at ensuring the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission and urged the Secretary-General to make Member States contributing personnel to serve as experts on mission aware of the necessity of providing appropriate conduct-related training prior to deployment.
- The Assembly decided to organize a briefing by the Secretariat at its seventy-first session and encouraged all Member States to redouble their efforts informally during the intersessional period towards devising concrete proposals to ensure accountability. The Assembly urged States to provide the Secretary-General with periodic updates on their handling of the credible allegations brought to their attention by the Secretary-General, provided that this would not be contrary to national laws or prejudice national investigations or national proceedings.
- The Assembly recalled its previous requests for Governments to provide specific details on the measures taken as necessary for the implementation of its previous resolutions on this item and requested, in this regard, the Secretary-General to prepare a compilation, based on information which should be received from all Member States, of national provisions regarding the establishment of jurisdiction over their nationals.

Relevant Treaties or Past Solutions

- At the 33rd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission” (A/C.6/71/L.25). At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/71/L.25 without a vote.
- The draft resolution expresses concern regarding alleged crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including fraud, corruption, and sexual exploitation. It urges the Secretary-General to enforce the zero-tolerance policy for criminal activities at all levels and ensure that all personnel are fully aware of this policy. The resolution calls on Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that such crimes are not left unpunished, and that perpetrators are brought to justice. It reaffirms previous resolutions that emphasize the need for criminal accountability among UN personnel.
- Additionally, the resolution requests that the Secretariat, along with contributing States, continue vetting personnel to identify any prior misconduct during their UN service. It also urges the Secretary-General to ensure that Member States provide appropriate training for personnel, emphasizing conduct and ethical behavior before deployment. These measures aim to strengthen accountability and prevent impunity for crimes committed by UN officials and experts on mission.

Possible Solutions

- ***Urgent Increase in the monitoring of UN officials and representatives.***

Enhanced oversight mechanisms, including frequent audits and independent monitoring bodies, are crucial to ensure accountability and integrity among UN personnel, deterring misconduct and promoting transparency.

- ***Higher Penalties and Fines for Criminal Acts Committed by the Respective Individuals:***

Implementing increased penalties, including substantial fines and harsher legal consequences, will deter criminal behavior among UN officials, ensuring that all individuals are held accountable for their actions without exception.

- ***Improvement in the Search Teams to Aid in Cleansing the UN of its Corrupt Individuals:***

Strengthening search teams with advanced investigative tools and collaboration with international law enforcement agencies will enhance efforts to identify and eliminate corrupt individuals within the UN, promoting a culture of integrity.

Appendice

- <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gal3689.doc.htm>
 - this link covers the seventy-sixth session of the UN sixth committee.

- https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/77/criminal_accountability.shtml
 - this link covers the seventy seventh session of the UN sixth committee.