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PPT CELAC 2014

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Pro Tempore Presidency

69th Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations

ITEM75

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF COSTA RICA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

New York, 22 October, 2014

-Please check against delivery-

Mr. Chairman

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States CELAC.

CELAC States would like to start by stressing that any type of misconduct, especially criminal behavior, committed by UN personnel on Mission, is unacceptable and must never go unpunished. These acts are particularly grave because of the nature of the functions of the perpetrators, and the special vulnerability of the persons victimized. The commission of these crimes have a detrimental effect on the fulfillment of the United Nations mandates and on the credibility of the Organization. It causes great harm to the victims while mining 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 performs its duties in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States would like to thank the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/69/210. Among other things, the report shows, through the information

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provided by Member States, that steps have been taken by some States to establish jurisdiction, enact the appropriate legislation related to the criminal jurisdiction over the crimes of a serious nature involved in this matter, and that there is a basic framework at different levels for the cooperation and exchange of information to bring to justice its perpetrators.

However, in lieu of repeated incidents, it is very clear that we need to do much more, as members of the international community, in order to ensure collectively that impunity associated with such crimes will
not find room anywhere, any more.

Mr. Chairman

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States takes note in particular of the information
prepared by the Secretariat contained in Section IV, regarding the process of reporting credible
accusations to the State of nationality, and in Section V, in relation to the strengthening of existing
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to set standards in meeting the needs of those whose rights have been violated and in leading the way forward.

In this regard, he Community of Latin American and Caribbean States would also like to highlight the shared responsibility of the Secretary-General and all Member States to take every measure to prevent
and punish said criminal activities committed by persons working for the United Nations and to enforce standards of conduct in that regard. We take note with appreciation of the practical measures described in the section V of the SG report concerning training and awareness-raising on UN standards of conduct and fully endorse the three-pronged comprehensive strategy to address sexual exploitation and abuse consisting of: prevention, enforcement and remedial action. It is important to continue the dialogue with the Secretariat, on measures and activities for the training and capacity-building of UN officials and experts on mission, and on the issue of privileges and immunities, to prevent their abuse

CELAC is looking forward to the implementation, this last quarter of 2013, of the accountability framework developed by the Secretariat to measure the performance of field missions in connection with a number of indicators relating to conduct and discipline. We believe this quarterly report will promote accountability.

Mr. Chairman

The Community would like to highlight the need to address other areas that present critical challenges, such as investigations in the field, investigations during criminal proceedings, the provision of evidence, and its assessment and value in the administrative and jurisdictional procedures.

We also believe it is important for UN personnel to comply with relevant UN Policy Guidelines regarding their expected standards of conduct, inter alia, those stablished in documents A/67 /775 and A/67 /828 .

CELAC is confident that during that