

Sixth Committee
Agenda item 79

Criminal accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission

Oral report of the Chair of the Working Group

Chair: Thabo Molefe (South Africa)

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/112 of 7 December 2017, the Sixth

Conduct and Discipline Unit of the Department of Field Support, the Ethics Office, the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the General Legal Division of the Office of Legal Affairs were present to provide a briefing to delegates and to engage in an informal discussion

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 15 October, the Working Group focused its consultations on three interrelated questions: first, whether the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission should be addressed in the form of a convention, and if so, when; second, which substantive issues a convention should cover; and third, whether there are any matters that should be included in this year's resolution to further ~~enhance the mechanisms of accountability initially developed in resolutions 62/62 and~~

63/119.

7. The following section of the report constitutes an informal summary for reference purpose only, not an official record of the proceedings, of the exchange of views in the Working Group.

III. Informal summary of discussions in the Working Group

8. During their briefing, the Secretariat representatives set out the respective roles and responsibilities of their units in addressing the item under examination, and provided updates on relevant policies and procedures, as well as information on other developments. The Working Group then engaged in a very fruitful and constructive question and answer session with Secretariat officials. Delegations sought factual and ~~practical information together with information on the processes and mechanisms in~~

10. Following the briefing by the Secretariat, the Working Group turned to an exchange of views among delegations regarding the three questions mentioned earlier. As to the question of whether and when it was the appropriate time to commence negotiations on a draft international convention relating to the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on missions, the views of delegations remained divided. Some delegations reiterated their position that it was premature to commence negotiations. In addition, it was pointed out that the issue of criminal accountability

