



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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Ambassador and Permanent Representative

To the Sixth Committee of the  
United Nations General Assembly

" Criminal Accountability of United Nations  
Officials and Experts on Mission "

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Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively associates this statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and we offer this further elaboration in our national capacity.

My delegation takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General A/75/217 and A/75/228. We are pleased to note the announcement of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 to the World Food Programme (WFP) by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for the Programme's efforts in combating hunger and contribution to peace, thereby conspicuously recognizing the "need for international solidarity and multilateral cooperation" at this time. In congratulating the WFP, which collaborates with the Government of Sierra Leone on the implementation of the "Free Quality Education" integrated school feeding programme, my delegation notes that the award is testamentary of the commitment of UN personnel, in particular UN officials or experts on mission, to the purpose of the UN as contained in its Charter. We hereby acknowledge that the great majority of UN officials and experts on mission perform their duties with admiration and integrity, often in challenging circumstances, upholding the high standards expected of UN personnel.

We, however, also acknowledge the existence of criminal behaviour, for which, accountability is critical for global confidence in our Organization. Without doubt, UN officials and experts on mission should be held accountable for the crimes they commit, and this requires action on credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by UN officials or experts on mission by States with jurisdiction on the one hand, and on the other hand by action through the UN system, including its agencies, funds and programmes.

Mr. Chair,

On our part, Sierra Leone being a Troop and Police Contributing Country to UN peacekeeping operations, is incrementally building the legal and policy frameworks to strengthen criminal accountability. For instance, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and any act of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA) by members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) constitutes an act of serious misconduct and thereby prohibited by both military law and the general law. The RSLAF also has a policy of zero tolerance on SGBV, including SEA and is being fully implemented.

All peacekeeping personnel are obligated to act with the highest standards

