

U.S. Statement to the Sixth Committee of the U.N. General Assembly

James B. Donovan, October 10, 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The United States believes that UN officials and experts on mission should be held accountable for crimes they commit. We recognize that more can and should be done by Member States and the United Nations to curb such abuses.

We read with great interest the Secretary-General's August 11, 2008 report on Criminal Accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

We note the broad range of practical measures that the United Nations has undertaken in an effort to address this important issue. We especially welcome UN efforts to train UN peacekeepers on what constitutes proscribed activity for such personnel, with an emphasis on current rules, guidance and procedures relevant to conduct and discipline.

We appreciate the UN's efforts to refer credible allegations against UN officials and experts on mission to the State of the alleged offender's nationality. We urge the States to which such individuals were repatriated to take appropriate actions with regard to those individuals and report to the United Nations on the disposition of the cases. We strongly believe that States much play a key role in curbing abuses and that all UN Member States can benefit from the Secretariat's reporting on efforts taken by States to investigate and prosecute referred cases.

We look forward to working with the Sixth Committee, and especially with Ms. Maria Telalian, on ways to promote accountability for crimes committed by UN staff and experts on mission.

Thank You

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