



Forum: Sixth Committee (Legal)
Question of: Upholding accountability and transparency to corruption and malfeasance by UN staff in peacekeeping missions
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I. Description of the Issue

Upholding accountability and transparency to corruption and malfeasance by UN staff in peacekeeping missions is a significant issue, questioning the trustworthiness and integrity of the United Nations and being therefore of great interest to be solved by the UN.

The United Nation's peacekeeping missions are a crucial part of the UN's work and are of great significance for countries impacted by war and crises, which rely on these missions.

However there have been credible allegations in the past in which UN staff may have committed crimes, that are far away from any values that the UN represents, which erodes its credibility and integrity.

Corruption and malfeasance by UN staff made on peacekeeping missions can be meant to have caused serious harm and damage not only to the affected nation itself but furthermore to already injured or traumatized people.

To address this issue thoroughly, the UN must show transparency and hold corrupted or criminal UN staff accountable for their actions, moreover the UN must show strict rules and enforcements as well as thorough investigations of affected missions.

II. Definition of Key Terms

UN

United Nations, is an international diplomatic and political organization, aiming the maintenance of international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, support sustainable development and climate action.

UNCAC



The UNCAC is the United Nations Convention of Anti-Corruption, it is the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty that was made and is being therefore of enormous importance.

Malfeasance

Malfeasance is an illegal act, often made by public employees or officials, intentional causing harm to someone as a conduct that is wrongful or unlawful.

Corruption

Corruption in relation to UN staff can be made by a range of actions, including bribery, embezzlement, fraud, and abuse of power.

Peacekeeping missions

Peacekeeping missions are aiming to protect civilians, actively prevent conflict, reduce violence, strengthen security, and empower national authorities to assume these responsibilities.

Conduct / Misconduct

Conduct is a certain behavior of one person, while misconduct the bad, illegal, or unethical behavior describes.

III. Background Information

Corruption and Malfeasance by UN staff in peacekeeping missions, has been a long on-going concern, the first concerns were raised in the 1990s, where in 1990 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) requested a Guideline on Anti-Corruption policies, which was first released in 1992 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with Assistance of the United Nations Department of Justice, it was further edited in 1995.

Between 1996 and 2002 the General Assembly passed six Resolutions concerning corruption and Malfeasance of UN staff.

Furthermore, Corruption and Malfeasance of UN staff in peacekeeping missions can disturb the peace and trust in the UN, it is not only harmful to the affected nation but as well to civilians and the UN. Not only is it causing harm to organizations and countries but also to the global economy, bribery alone costs the world two percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).



The question of upholding accountability has been continuously asked, seeing as former UN staff, who committed proven crimes and who've been raised serious allegations against have only been dismissed or disciplined, which has been questioned by multiple people saying that this is not strict enough for such a crime, which can in worst case cause serious harm.

The Departments of Field Support (DFS) and Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) further implemented a Security Council Resolution in 2016, addressing the accountability of troop- and police-contributing countries in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Adding to this, The DFS in partnership with the Japanese Government developed an online training program, which became mandatory for all field mission personnel at the end of 2016 and mandatory for all Secretary personnel in May 2017, further concentrating on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Since then, multiple bodies of the UN, including the United Nations Security Council, have been taking part in solving this problem by multiple resolutions, briefings, and press announcements.

Over the years UN Staff have been accused of multiple crimes, despite UN's "zero tolerance" policy, these included Gang rape, child and baby rape, prostitution and sex trafficking rings, paedophilia, sexual predators, murder, theft and bribery, the allegations of abuses by peacekeepers and peacekeeping staff have not led to upholding serious accountability, which could be the reason these crimes continue. Sexual violence and exploitation by peacekeeping units have been reported in many countries, including Iraq, Bosnia, Mozambique, Cambodia, East Timor, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti, showing that UN peacekeeping Staff abuse their power for personal gains and therefore not representing the United Nation's values.

In the 2015 UN peacekeeper sex abuse numbers it is shown that the gender violence has increased, especially Central African Countries were affected.

IV. Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is majorly involved in multiple peacekeeping missions, 2023 Bangladesh contributed 6500 to 7300 soldiers to United Nations peacekeeping mission, which is more than the USA and any other member nation of the UN.

Therefore, Bangladesh plays a great role in peacekeeping missions and its responsibilities.



Iraq

There have been allegations after an investigation of The Guardian in January 2024, stating that UN staff in the Iraq allegedly demanded bribes in return for helping businessmen win contracts on post-war reconstruction projects in the country.

Other Countries involved

Countries like the P5 nations and additionally Germany, Canada and Japan played a major role in solving this issue, by not only donating and investing money to peacekeeping missions but furthermore supporting the UN in investigations and fighting corruption and malfeasance.

These countries as well supported multiple resolutions concerning this issue and were also supportive of the UNCAC.

DFS

The Department of Field Support has been majorly involved in multiple attempts to solve this issue, laying focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council has been the first ones to raise their concerns and requesting a Guide on Anti-Corruption policies.

UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime were majorly involved by developing a Guide, addressing the Anti-Corruption policies, requested by ECOSOC.

V. Timeline of Events

When	What
24th of October 1945	Founding of the United Nations
1990s	First allegations on Corruption by UN Staff were made
January 2002	First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee, dealing



	with a draft Convention against Corruption
October 2003	United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)
31st of October 2003	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
April 2004	The Volcker's Committee issues four interim reports on the allegations of corruption in the UN Oil-for-Food program in Iraq.
October 2005	The OIOS publishes a report on management weaknesses in UN peacekeeping missions, including the issue of financial mismanagement.
November 2016	Online Training program developed by the DFS, and the Japanese Government became mandatory for all UN Field mission staff
April 2017	The UN introduces their Whistleblower protection policy, ensuring that UN staff can report misconduct without the fear of retaliation
March 2018	Further Adaptation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)
September 2018	The UN Security Council hosts a Briefing on Corruption and Conflict
July 2021	The UN adopts Resolution 2587, negotiated, and developed by the Security Council, focusing on accountability and corruption and malfeasance in peacekeeping missions.
January 2024	Recent Allegations of bribery of UN staff in Iraq have been raised



VI. Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

There have been multiple attempts to solve this issue, including six resolutions of the General Assembly, the UNCAC and the SEA, however there are still some serious allegations, the most recent made in January 2024. This questions the integrity and credibility of the UN and therefore has to be solved in an urgent matter, not only to ensure the safety of civilians but to ensure the efficiency and trust of our UN staff.

VII. Possible Solutions

Possible Solutions to this issue could include:

1. Advancing the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), to strengthen the Oversight Mechanism and therefore conduct thorough investigations into allegations of corruption and malfeasance.
2. Enhance the total transparency of United Nations peacekeeping missions, by sharing more information with the public as well as encouraging member states to share information and allegations with the UN to ensure a fast and thorough investigation and strengthen the partnerships.

VIII.

Questions Delegates Should Consider during Research

- Has your Country been involved in any attempts to solve this issue?
- Did any peacekeeping missions take or still take place in your country?
- Has your country raised any concerns or allegations regarding corruption and malfeasance of UN staff?
- Has your country published any statement regarding this issue?
- What was your country's position at Conventions or in resolutions regarding this issue?

IX. Relevant UN Treaties and Events

United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)



The United Nations Convention Against Corruption took place and was adopted in October 2003 and entered into force in December 2005, it introduces measures and rules that all countries can apply in order to strengthen their legal and regulatory regimes to fight corruption.

It is furthermore the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty that was made.

United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)

The SEA was adopted in 2003 and further adapted in 2018, in which the UN defined the terms of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and developed clear guidelines preventing such incidents.

It further explains the prevention of such incidents occurring, including the Screening Implementing Partners, enter cooperative arrangements with implementing partners and monitoring of implementing partners and termination of arrangements.

Relevant Resolutions

- Resolution 77/98 - Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
- Resolution 54/205 - Prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds

X. Useful Links

<https://un.org>

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/gal3689.doc.htm>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org>

[https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/222/12/pdf/n2322212.pdf?](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/222/12/pdf/n2322212.pdf?token=QsHFmKxRmYKdTz065y&fe=true)

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XI. Sources

<https://un.org>

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UN Guide for Anti-Corruption Policies, Released November 2003, https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/corruption/UN_Guide.pdf

Key Initiatives to Prevent and Address Misconduct,

Released May 2018, https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/serving_with_pride_final_31_may_2018_0.pdf

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Secretary-General's Bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, Released 9 October 2003, <https://www.unhcr.org/media/secretary-generals-bulletin-special-measures-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse>

United Nations Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners, Released 21 March 2018, https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/UN_Protocol_on_SEA_Allegations_involving_Implementing_Partners_-_English_Final.pdf

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IRAQ: Oil for Food Scandal, Released 28 October 2005, Sharon Otterman, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/iraq-oil-food-scandal#:~:text=The Volcker's committee has issued,its work in April 2004.>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>

Stressing No Country is Exempt from Corruption, Speakers in General Assembly Call for Greater Collaboration to Tackle Menace, as Special Session Continues, Released 03 June 2021, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/ga12330.doc.htm>

Improving Accountability and Performance of United Nations Peacekeeping, Released 24 December 2019, R. Clarke Cooper, <https://2017-2021.state.gov/improving-accountability-and-performance-of-united-nations-peacekeeping-2/>

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/222/12/pdf/n2322212.pdf?token=QsHFmKxRmYKdTz065y&fe=true>

Eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption - Resolutions and decisions, Released December 2019, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session8-resolutions.html>



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<https://www.ibanet.org/article/CEBC5F69-A238-49BB-B85A-5E8D878FE485#:~:text=Gang rape,child and baby,have continued unabated for years.>