

**Country:** Algeria

**Issue:** Accountability of United Nations Peacekeepers

**Committee:** United Nations Department of Peace Operations

**ISSUE AND POSITION:**

Algeria supports strengthening accountability mechanisms for United Nations peacekeepers who commit serious violations, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse. As a longstanding contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, Algeria believes that credible investigation, prosecution, and victim-centered restitution are essential to protecting civilian populations, maintaining trust in peacekeeping missions, and preserving the legitimacy of the United Nations.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Allegations of misconduct by United Nations peacekeepers, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse, have increased international concern over the past two decades. United Nations reports indicate that allegations of sexual misconduct have surpassed 100 cases multiple times within the past decade, including in 2016 and again by 2024, undermining confidence in peacekeeping missions and damaging relationships with host communities. Algerian personnel have participated in missions across Africa and the Middle East, and Algeria has consistently emphasized strict adherence to international humanitarian law, civilian protection, and respect for host-state sovereignty. Algeria supports the United Nations' zero-tolerance policy toward misconduct and has repeatedly affirmed that peacekeepers must act in accordance with both their mandates and international legal standards.

Despite existing UN measures, including the zero-tolerance policy, the establishment of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the Trust Fund in Support of Victims, accountability remains uneven. While peacekeepers do not possess absolute immunity, enforcement frequently breaks down after repatriation, as prosecutions depend on the willingness of troop-contributing countries to pursue legal action. From Algeria's perspective, the principal weakness lies not in the absence of norms, but in inconsistent enforcement and insufficient coordination between the United Nations and contributing states. These gaps risk undermining the credibility of peacekeeping missions and the collective responsibility of member states.

**PROPOSED ACTION ON THE ISSUE:**

Algeria proposes an accountability framework known as IPR, standing for Investigation, Prosecution, and Restitution, designed to address persistent structural weaknesses in peacekeeper accountability. First, investigation requires the establishment of a permanent and independent investigative body within the United Nations system dedicated exclusively to peacekeeper misconduct. This body should function separately from mission command structures to ensure impartial investigations and consistent standards across all missions. Second, prosecution must be reinforced through binding agreements obligating troop-contributing countries to initiate legal proceedings within a defined timeframe following repatriation. Continued participation in peacekeeping operations should be linked to demonstrated compliance with these obligations. Third, restitution must prioritize victims through direct compensation mechanisms, confidential reporting systems, and strengthened witness protection measures. Support should focus on justice and redress rather than indirect programs that fail to address the specific harm suffered. The IPR framework advances the interests of the United Nations by reinforcing international human rights norms, restoring confidence in peacekeeping operations, and ensuring that accountability is applied consistently. By strengthening enforcement and centering victims, the United Nations affirms that peacekeepers are bound by the same standards they are deployed to uphold.

## Works Cited

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