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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by:

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Office of the Legal Advisor

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Agenda Item 81

**Consideration of Effective Measures to enhance the Protection,
Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and
Representatives**

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United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Israel would like to reiterate the great importance it attaches to this agenda item and to developing effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The physical wellbeing of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is a fundamental prerequisite for the execution of their duties. As such, it is therefore an essential component to ensuring effective international relations.

Unfortunately, recent terrorist attacks against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in the Middle East and elsewhere, have shown no one is immune from this plague. In this regard, Israeli diplomats and premises have long been the subject of countless terrorist attacks and failed plots throughout the world.

Israel strongly believes that the international nature of these abhorrent crimes requires an effective and resolute international response. We call upon the international community to cooperate closely on all spheres - in particular the operational, legal and intelligence sharing levels - and take all necessary measures to provide adequate protection for all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Israel reiterates its own commitment to respect the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 and all other relevant instruments of international law providing protection for diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. In this regard, we believe that the Committee must emphasize the obligations arising out of the aforementioned international instruments which require the host countries to take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on the person, freedom and dignity of the representatives, as well as the obligations which impose on the receiving State a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.

We urge member states and the international community as a whole, to closely cooperate in ensuring a safe international environment which will allow the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives to carry out safely their essential duties and accomplish their official tasks free from fear and harm.