



Permanent Mission of The State of Eritrea  
To the United Nations, New York

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Statement by H.E. ~~Mr. Araya Desta~~  
Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations  
On item 82: Diplomatic Protection  
At the Sixth Committee of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of  
the United Nations General Assembly  
21 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea attaches a great importance to the subject of Diplomatic Protection and to developing effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives is a matter of great concern to my delegation. The obligations under the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Conventions on Consular Relations of 1963 and all other relevant instruments establish principles of international law that should be strictly observed by receiving States to allow foreign representatives to accomplish peacefully their official duties. Eritrea seriously takes its responsibility under those Conventions and ensures the protection of the representatives of diplomatic and consular missions as well as the inviolability of their premises and communication.

Today diplomatic and consular missions are discharging their mandates and tasks in a more complex and challenging environment rendering them more vulnerable than before. Diplomacy in the 21st Century requires more transparency, access and openness to the general public. Individuals and groups with criminal intent have invariably exploited this openness putting at risk diplomatic personnel and staff at physical danger. If left unchecked, such actions will potentially undermine the ability of diplomats from properly and safely performing their task, especially diplomats from developing countries, who often carry out their duties with limited resources.

Therefore, more vigilance and cooperation would be required from all sides to prevent criminal acts and to ensure the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and the physical well-being of the personnel. It is important to have a safe environment enabling all diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel to carry out their mandates and duties free from fear and harm.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.