



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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**LEGAL ADVISER OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 82ND "DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION"

AT THE

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

*NEW YORK
21ST SEPTEMBER, 2013*

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/68/115 entitled: "Diplomatic Protection".

My delegation takes note of the comments highlighted in the said report received from a number of States on the possibility of coming up with a Convention on the basis of the articles on diplomatic protection.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation considers that the diplomatic and consular missions' discharge a very sensitive and high responsibility of promoting exchange of views among nations. These institutions have a pivotal role in the development of friendly relations among nations.

Furthermore, the rules protecting ambassadors and other diplomats allow them to execute their vital functions. These rules are among the oldest established and most fundamental obligations of international law. Respect of these rules is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States.

Mr. Chairman,

The violence against the security and safety of diplomatic and consular Missions and representatives is a serious concern that needs to be addressed effectively. My delegation firmly believes that any acts of violence against diplomatic agents and other internationally protected persons create a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations which are necessary for cooperation among nations.

Mr. Chairman,

The committee may recall, in particular that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations provides that the premises of the Mission shall be inviolable and that the host State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the missions against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity. In this regard, we must redouble our efforts to fulfill our obligations to protect diplomats and

consular officials and to prevent attacks against them, including arbitrary arrests from security officers of host countries.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, we stress that in addition to the existing international legal instruments, all measures that are necessary to protect the diplomatic representatives are welcome and Zambia looks forward to the negotiations of a Convention on diplomatic protection.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.