



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

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**Statement by Ms. Elsa Haile  
Director of Regional and International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea**

**On item 80: “Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security  
and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives”**

**At the Sixth Committee of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
21 October 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea attaches great importance to the agenda item under consideration. Protection of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and representatives is a crucial prerequisite for the proper functioning of any Mission.

Eritrea firmly sees the need for all Member States to concretely show their full commitment to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on the Consular Relations of 1963 and all other relevant instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

Today Diplomatic and Consular Missions are discharging their responsibilities and tasks in a more complex and challenging environment rendering them more vulnerable than before. Access and transparency to ordinary citizens, utilization of information and communication technologies and emphasis on multilateralism can largely describe the essence of modern diplomacy.

While openness to the public, rendered diplomacy a more transparent and representative venture, it has also increased the vulnerability of diplomatic and consular missions and personnel. This is particularly difficult for developing countries for which having a highly secured premises is financially a challenge.

It is important to reiterate that it is the responsibility of the host country to protect the inviolability, safety and security of Diplomats and their Missions. All receiving Member States must protect diplomatic and consular staff and missions against any groups or organizations that attempt to threaten their security and safety.

Mr. Chairman,

The Vienna Conventions concerning diplomatic communications guarantees the immunity and inviolability of diplomatic premises and official communications as well as diplomatic bags. However, concerning diplomatic communications, today diplomats and diplomatic missions are more and more relying on electronic technologies. In this regard, the recent revelations concerning the secret and illegal collection of electronic data must be a source of concern for all of us. The secret and illegal collection of information from diplomatic personnel and missions is a violation of the Vienna Conventions and international principles. This unacceptable behavior from big or small Nations must immediately and unconditionally stop.

Mr. Chairman,

Hosting Regional and International Organizations should be seen as an obligation and not as a right. It is an obligation that requires Host Countries to respect the Vienna Conventions. Host countries must and should protect diplomatic persons and missions. They should also facilitate and create a conducive environment for the diplomats to perform their duties. Furthermore, Diplomats assigned to the African Union, and the United Nations as well as attending AU and UN sponsored meetings should not face targeted actions and intimidation. This behavior by any country that is hosting International or Regional Organizations should not be tolerated under any pretext or justification. The letter and spirit of the Vienna Conventions and Host Country Agreements must be fully respected.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, it is imperative to have a safe working and living environment that enables all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives to carry out their mandates and duties free from obstruction, fear and harm.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.