

**Statement by
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Before the Sixth Committee
UN General Assembly 71st Session**

**Agenda Item 82: Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the
Protection, Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and
Representatives
New York, 10 October 2016**

Mr. Chairperson

Sri Lanka appreciates the report of the Secretary General on the Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (A/71/130).

My delegation fully subscribes to the view that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is fundamental to the orderly conduct of relations among States, and for the fulfillment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairperson

Sri Lanka condemns all continuing acts of violence against the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives, and urge member States to act in concert to ensure the protection of diplomatic

missions and their staff.

We urge states to respect their obligations under international law and to take all necessary measures in order to protect the diplomatic and consular missions and the representatives within their territories, and to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions and their officials present in territories under their jurisdiction.

Sri Lanka also urges states to use practical preventive measures to halt illegal activities by persons, groups and/or organizations that may encourage or instigate the perpetration of such acts against the security and safety of such missions or their representatives.

Mr. Chairperson

In this regard Sri Lanka would like to point out that developing nations in particular, face great difficulties with respect to the financial costs of protecting their diplomatic missions. It is therefore prudent for all states to take preventive measures to minimize threats, and that all measures be taken, bearing in mind the rapidly changing face of threats including the use of technology.

It is vital that there is increased international cooperation to prevent future attacks, in particular the timely exchange of information. Current reporting

procedures must be fully utilized and enhanced, and States must be encouraged to report any violations as a means of raising awareness on the issue.

While it is paramount that the laws of receiving states are respected and upheld, it is equally important that receiving states hold the perpetrators of attacks on diplomatic and consular missions and representatives accountable under the law.

It would be pertinent to mention in this context that a Sri Lankan diplomat, who is serving as a Head of Mission, was the victim of a physical attack at an International Airport in the capital of a country recently. Video footage of the incident clearly identifies those involved in the attack. Further, this attack had been perpetrated while the diplomat was carrying out his official duties. Some of the wrongdoers have been apprehended by the Receiving State, but the need for effective prosecution and imposition of appropriate punishment, which takes into account the gravity of the offence, is still being pursued. In addition to the investigation and prosecution of all who were involved in the attack from the criminal law perspective, it is important to ascertain as well, the real motivation behind the attack, the possible involvement of any group or network that may have orchestrated the incident, and any direct or indirect involvement, incitement, or other forms

of support if any, by elements outside the country in which the attack took place.

Mr. Chairperson

In this rapidly advancing digital age it is also imperative, that the sovereignty of states is strictly observed. Therefore it is important that we as the community of nations, address new challenges in the digital era, and highlight the need to ensure respect for diplomatic and consular immunities – including those of archives, documents and communications, which must remain inviolable.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.