



## **Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York**

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**STATEMENT BY MS. STEPHANIE GEBREMEDHIN AT THE SIXTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE 73rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 84: "CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE  
MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY  
OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES"**

18 October 2018

Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report under this agenda item. My delegation strongly condemns all and any act of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, and reiterates its commitment to the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations of 1961 and 1962.

The responsibilities bestowed upon diplomats in fostering peace and prosperity is vital to the promotion of UN principles and purposes. Ensuring the safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and personnel is at the heart of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations. The privileges and immunities under those conventions are not to benefit individuals rather to ensure proper function of relations among States.

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea expresses concern that member states party to the aforementioned treaties continue to violate the sanctity of diplomats and consular missions. Eritrea believes all member states must continue to enhance their efforts to ensure the peaceful cooperation of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

In this rapidly growing era of the digital age secured and uninterrupted communication is critical in the performance of diplomatic and consular function. Diplomatic communication shall be protected both offline and online, and it is

imperative that the diplomatic community address these new challenges. The collection of information from diplomatic personnel and missions is not only a violation of Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 it also goes against the spirit of the UN and weakens the trust and cooperation among nations.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, it is vital that an environment for diplomatic and consular functions is facilitated with all appropriate measures in accordance with international law and norms; an atmosphere where state representatives fulfill their mandates free from obstruction, intimidation, and harm.

I thank you.