

Statement by Turkey

on Agenda Item 80

**"Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security
and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular
Missions and Representatives"**

at the

Sixth Committee

18 October 2018

New York

Mr. Chair,

My delegation has aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. However I wish to add the following in my national capacity.

Diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives play a key role that enables the conduct of international relations. Their protection is therefore essential to the development of friendly relations among nations.

That is why we welcome the continued interest of the Sixth Committee on this item. We also welcome the reports of the Secretary General on this matter, the latest one being the report (A/73/189).

Mr. Chair,

Turkey is strongly attached to the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and on Consular Relations of 1963. Many of the provisions of the said conventions are well established norms of international law.

In particular, the special duty of the host country to protect diplomatic and consular premises and agents is of utmost importance. We condemn all attacks perpetrated against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives worldwide.

Unfortunately, over the last two years, when this item was last examined by this Committee, Turkish Diplomatic and Consular missions and representatives, including high-level officials, have been the target of an important number of attacks, and violations, some totally unacceptable, of the abovementioned conventions.

In this regard, although we thank relevant host countries which have taken the necessary steps to prevent or end these violations, we regret that some member states have allowed terrorist organizations, such as PKK/PYD and FETO, to organize protests in front of Turkish missions, thus endangering the safety and security of Turkish diplomats and diplomatic premises. We call on all countries to take necessary precautions against similar cases.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to underline that Turkey takes all measures to effectively protect missions and diplomats stationed on its territory. A constant effort of assessment and enhancement is being carried out by our relevant authorities in order to provide the best standard for their security. In this effort we believe that cooperation between states, which should also include the fight against terrorism, is crucial.

We believe that cooperation between countries can greatly contribute to the effective protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, thus enabling them to safely carry out their functions, for the development of understanding, trust and friendly relations among nations.

Thank you Mr. Chair.