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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale LA/COD/4 dated 03 March 2020, has the honor to submit the following inputs on actions taken by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/205 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives":

1. The Philippine Government is not aware of any notable incident affecting the security and safety of diplomatic missions or their personnel that has taken place within its territory during the relevant reporting periods.
2. The Philippines acceded to the three most significant conventions with regard to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, to wit: The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and the Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents.
3. In compliance with its international obligations to uphold the inviolability of diplomatic premises as well as to protect diplomatic agents in its territory, the Philippine Government has established a specific unit under the Philippine National Police, namely the Police Security and Protection Group (PSPG), mandated to secure and protect national government officials,

members of the diplomatic corps and visiting foreign dignitaries in the country. Requests for the deployment of the PSPG to the embassy or consular premises are sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs and considered by its Intelligence and Security Unit.

4. With regard to possible ways forward to enhance the security measures for diplomatic agents and premises, the Philippines recommends the establishment of security units in all receiving States, similar to its PSPG, that specifically cater to the security and protection needs of the members of the diplomatic corps as a better alternative to deploying random personnel from the police or military arm of the government for this purpose. In addition to deployment of permanent and round-the-clock guards at the premises, said unit, equipped with a specific set of training to render surveillance, close-in and escort services to diplomatic agents, can effectively enhance security for the persons of diplomatic agents and thwart unwanted incidents against them.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 18 May 2020



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