



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 82:

**"Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security
and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives"**

United Nations

New York

17 October 2022

– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, and the Republic of Moldova, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia, Andorra and Monaco.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We would like to thank the Secretary General for the last report (A/77/150). As evident from the report, unfortunately, diplomatic and consular missions, as well as private residences of members of diplomatic missions, continue to be a target of violent incidents and attacks.

We remind that, according to the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, the receiving State is under a duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the diplomatic and consular missions. Thus, we urge all States to respect the universally recognized rules and principles enshrined in the Vienna Conventions and to enhance the safety measures without delay, whenever the circumstances so require. We welcome that two additional States became participants to the relevant instruments for protection of diplomats, since last year's session.

Safety and inviolability of the premises of diplomatic and consular missions, and respect for the principle of reciprocity, are imperative for building trust and nurturing multilateralism among nations. Any kind of violent act against the diplomatic or consular missions run against principles and rules of international law, in particular the principle of sovereign equality of States.

We would like to emphasise that archives and documents of diplomatic and consular missions are inviolable at all times and furthermore that the receiving State is obliged to permit and protect free communication on the part of the mission for all official purposes, including between the mission and the Government or other missions of the State. Freedom of communication is one of the core tenets of Vienna Conventions and is invaluable for the successful work of any mission.

We recall that in some countries around the world stringent measures continue to be implemented in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. Throughout the course of the pandemic, we have protested against measures introduced that were – or are – not compatible with Vienna Conventions. Such measures negatively affect our diplomats and the efficient performance of the functions of the diplomatic missions. We call on all States to ensure that

any measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are fully in line with the receiving State's obligations. We urge States to expeditiously amend any existing measures that are not compatible with the Vienna Conventions in order to bring their COVID-19 response into compliance with their international law obligations.

Mr./Madam Chair,

In closing, the European Union and its Member States condemn all breaches of the law of diplomatic and consular relations. We will continue to uphold the obligations under the two Vienna Conventions by supporting efforts to enhance the safety, security and inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, and by protecting the freedom of communication belonging to such missions. We encourage all States to do the same, as respect for the rules and principles governing diplomatic and consular relations is essential for developing and strengthening friendly relations among States.

Thank you.