

Check against delivery

The 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee

Agenda item 82 "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives"

Statement delivered by Ms. Alis Lungu, Second Secretary,
Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations

New York, 18 October 2022

Mister Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

We welcome the resumption of the discussions in the Sixth Committee on the topic "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

The rules protecting the sanctity of diplomatic representatives that enable them to carry out their functions are the oldest enshrined and remain of outmost importance. They constitute the framework for the construction of international relations.

We note with concern that violent incidents and attacks involving diplomatic and consular missions and representatives continue to occur and we condemn all these actions.

We thank the Secretary-General for his most recent report (<u>A/77/208</u>), and we are appreciative of the efforts to facilitate the circulation and publication of State reports pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 75/139.

The current report reflects three incidents submitted by the Russian Federation concerning its diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Romania. In response, we underline that Romania is firmly committed to taking all appropriate measures, as required by international law, in a timely manner, for the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations.

Romania has submitted a written contribution, that was circulated to all United Nations Member States on 13 September 2022, detailing the position of the competent national authorities, as well as the measures undertaken in each of the three reported incidents. Since the contribution was not included in the present report, we kindly ask for its inclusion in the next report on the topic.

Mister Chair,

We feel compelled to point out that the unprovoked military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including attacks against the capital, poses serious risks to the safety and security of all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives present there. Just last week, Russia's missile strikes across Ukraine, including in Kiev, resulted in loss of civilian life and destroyed non-military objectives. One strike hit only 850 meters away from the Romanian Embassy in Kiev.

We call on the Russian Federation to comply with all rules of international law applicable during armed conflict and we express our expectation that all measures will be taken to protect the safety of diplomatic and consular representatives and to protect the premises of diplomatic and consular missions from any attack or damage.

Mister Chair,

I will conclude by reemphasizing the importance of the measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. We must act upon the conviction that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations, including those derived from the principle of sovereign equality of States, is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you!