



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by Mr. Fabio Cannizzaro

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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

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina* and Georgia, as well as Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for his latest report (A/79/143) and the States that have provided information on serious violations involving diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and measures taken against offenders, as well as their views with respect to any measures taken or needed to enhance the protection, security, and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

In today's increasingly fragmented world, characterised by a growing number of conflicts in different regions and rising geopolitical tensions that could escalate into further conflicts, the importance of diplomacy cannot be overstated. Diplomacy is a fundamental tool for preserving and promoting peace and stability, maintaining relations and open channels of communication, even – or rather, especially – during conflicts, to facilitate their peaceful resolution.

This tool must be defended and promoted by all of us at all times.

The defence of diplomacy begins by guaranteeing the protection, security, and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as fully facilitating the performance of the functions of the mission, as clearly mandated

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

by the two relevant Vienna Conventions. Any threat or attack against them and their dignity is unacceptable.

Therefore, it is necessary to put in place all appropriate measures to prevent and protect the premises of diplomatic missions against any intrusion or damage, and to prevent any attack on the staff members of the missions. This requires continuous risk assessment to ensure an adequate level of prevention and protection accordingly. Where attacks have occurred, it is essential to investigate and prosecute them quickly and thoroughly. The effective protection of diplomatic and consular missions and their staff also requires cooperation between sending and receiving States, both internationally in relation to security matters and at the national level, between such missions and the competent local authorities.

We also underline that both Vienna Conventions establish the inviolability of the mission's archives and documents 'at any time and wherever they may be', as well as the protection of diplomatic communication and correspondence.

Mr./Madam Chair,

To conclude, the European Union and its Member States continue to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Vienna Conventions, which form the basis of diplomatic relations. We deplore all acts affecting the inviolability of diplomatic and consular agents and their premises and we support all efforts to enhance their protection, security and safety. Through such efforts, we can contribute to conflict prevention and resolution, and to greater stability in international relations.

Thank you.