



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**HER EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR JANET OLISA, OON
DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

ON

**“CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE
THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC
AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES” AGENDA
ITEM 82**

AT

79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 1st November 2024

Mr. Chair,

My delegation extends our appreciation to you and members of the Bureau for your leadership throughout this process. We express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document A/79/143 on the Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

2. Nigeria believes that a robust system of rules related to the protection of diplomatic consular missions and representatives remains an important asset for member states. In this regard, given the close connection between diplomatic protection and state responsibility, Nigeria wishes to underscore the need for these two areas of international law to continue to be aligned. Diplomatic privileges and immunities are the right diplomats enjoy in the host countries to enable them to do their statutory work in the host countries without any hindrances.

3. My delegation is deeply concerned that diplomatic and consular agents still encounter risks and hazards in the course of their duties. In this context, we call on member states, particularly, receiving states to adhere to international best practices in line with the Vienna Conventions of 1961 and 1963 on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations, respectively.

Mr. Chair,

4. It is important to highlight that the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular relations assign to receiving states a special duty of protection and a duty to abstain from exercising any

enforcement right in particular, an arrest or detention of a diplomatic or consular representative covered by this convention. In this connection, the principle of inviolability must be respected by the authorities of the receiving States.

5. While the Convention was clear on the responsibility of all persons and privileged to enjoy these rights, it is equally important that the diplomatic representative respect the guiding laws and regulations of the host states. The concept of diplomatic immunity is a fundamental principle of international law. However, there are many instances of the abuse of immunities and privileges, and such abuse negates the good intentions designed to be achieved by the practice of diplomatic immunities and privileges. It is important that the international community put in place a mechanism to address such abuse, especially erring diplomatic officials.

6. Nigeria remains committed to adhering to the principle in line with the 1961 and 1963 Vienna conventions. The Government has taken all necessary measures, including providing armed security, to safeguard all diplomatic and consular missions in Nigeria. For effective policing a designated area for missions and diplomatic residences has been allocated as diplomatic zones.

7. The Government established a Special Diplomatic Protection Unit under the Inspector General of Police responsible for providing standby security during emergencies and distress calls and the unit is also responsible for any alert signals. Diplomats and Consular representatives travelling outside the capital on official duties are provided necessary security, and a special police Squad is always

assigned to foreign envoys or dignitaries arriving in Nigeria on special assignments.

Madam Chair,

8. My delegation firmly condemns any violation of international law including prohibited acts such as attacks on the person, freedom or dignity of a diplomat or consular agent. We call on Member States to strictly enforce such prohibitions with a view to protect diplomatic and consular agents, as well as their properties from violation of any kind.

9. On a final note, Mr. Chair, my delegation calls on Member States to refrain from subjecting diplomats and their properties to searches and arrests of any kind by police or armed security forces. We must ensure that diplomatic and consular representatives carry out their functions in a safe and secure environment.

I thank you.