

Statement by Finland  
on behalf of the Nordic Countries  
Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden  
(for eStatements)

United Nations General Assembly 79<sup>th</sup> Session, Sixth Committee  
New York, 1 November 2024

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

Statement by Ms. Verna Adkins  
First Secretary, Legal Adviser  
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

New York, 1 November 2024  
(check against delivery)

Madam/Mr Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland. This item on Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives was originally included in the agenda of the General Assembly on the initiative of the Nordic countries. We continue to pay particular attention to this topic.

It is a matter of great concern to us that diplomatic agents and premises keep falling victim to attacks in receiving States despite the general recognition of the special duty to protect them.

Madam/Mr Chair,

We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report, contained in document A/79/143, as well as for his efforts in assisting the Member States to respond to the reporting request contained in paragraph 11 of resolution 77/108, which was adopted two years ago.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the States that have provided information pursuant to this resolution. We were pleased to note that with regard to many incidents, the report includes both a summary of the protection, security and safety failures encountered by the sending States as well as a summary of the follow-up measures taken by the receiving States.

The international legal instruments relevant for protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives have already been ratified by numerous States. However, we note that there have not been any new ratifications since the previous Secretary-General's report two years ago. We continue to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to these instruments. Full implementation of such instruments by all States Parties is also of great significance.

Madam/Mr Chair,

Universally recognized rules and principles of international law, as reflected in the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, place upon the receiving State a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises, to prevent any attacks against diplomatic and consular representatives and to accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of diplomatic missions and consular posts. The obligation to protect diplomatic and consular premises and representatives is one of the cornerstones of international relations and aimed at protecting the channels of communication between States. Today, more than ever, it is important that these lines of communication remain open.

We urge States to honor their obligations under international law to provide protection to foreign missions, and to do their utmost to prevent attacks from taking place in their territory. Where such attacks have occurred, they have to be fully investigated and prosecuted. States are also encouraged to engage in a dialogue with the diplomatic missions in their territory with a view to finding the most effective ways to ensure the full protection of diplomatic premises and representatives.

Madam/Mr Chair,

Despite all the efforts undertaken, the Secretary-General's report again documents serious violations that have taken place. We have also learned about other attacks against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. We express our regret at injuries suffered in such attacks and condemn all acts of violence in the strongest terms. The Nordic countries wish to emphasize that such violations and attacks can never be justified and perpetrators must be held accountable.

Thank you.