

PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

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

79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

1 November 2024

Trusteeship Council UN Headquarters New York

Mr. Chair,

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and underscore the obligation of all States to ensure the security and safety of the members and premises of diplomatic and consular missions as well as their inviolability in accordance with international law, the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.

The Philippines is cognizant of its obligations under international law with regard to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

In particular, the Philippines upholds its special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity (Article XXII, Section 2) and to take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on the person, freedom, and dignity of a diplomatic agent (Article XXIX).

In compliance with its international obligations to uphold the inviolability of diplomatic premises as well as to protect diplomatic agents in its territory, the Philippine Government has established a specific unit under the Philippine National Police, namely the Police Security and Protection Group (PSPG), mandated to secure and protect national government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and visiting foreign dignitaries in the country.

Requests for the deployment of the PSPG to the embassy or consular premises are sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs and considered by its Intelligence and Security Unit. The PSPG specifically caters to the security and protection needs of the members of the diplomatic corps. In addition to deployment of permanent and round-the clock guards at the premises, the PSPG is equipped with a specific set of training to effectively enhance security of the persons of diplomatic agents and thwart unwanted incidents against them.

This is in line with the call for States to design practical measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as to enhance cooperation towards this end. We welcome close cooperation of states, including through contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State, and regular exchanges of information and practices. **END.**