



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

**GEORGE SHADRACK KAMANDA
FIRST SECRETARY**

**To the Sixth Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly**

**“Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection,
security, and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and
representatives.” (Agenda item 82)**

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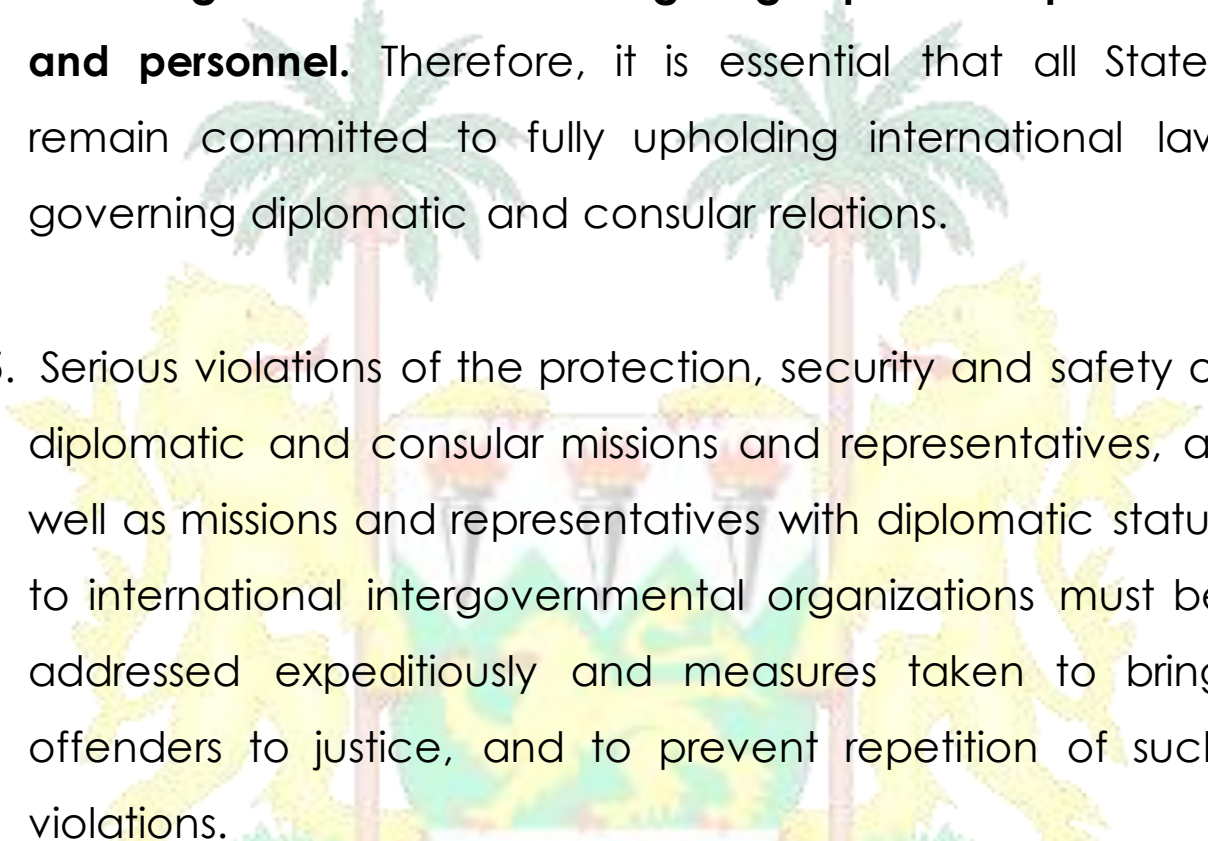
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Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone thanks the Secretary-General for his report **A/79/143**, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions **77/108** on the agenda item: “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security, and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.
2. Sierra Leone attaches great importance to the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and strictly complies with obligations enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.
3. We therefore condemn **“all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organization, and [...we underline] that such acts can never be justified.”**

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4. Recognizing the vital role of diplomacy in international affairs, it is in our common interest to take **collective action against breaches of diplomatic and consular law, including violent incidents targeting diplomatic premises and personnel.** Therefore, it is essential that all States remain committed to fully upholding international law governing diplomatic and consular relations.
5. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations must be addressed expeditiously and measures taken to bring offenders to justice, and to prevent repetition of such violations.

Chair,

6. The Government of Sierra Leone did not submit a report pursuant to operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 77/108. However, we express our concern over the reported incidents regarding diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. On our part, no serious

violations have been committed with respect to the protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives accredited to Sierra Leone within the reporting period.

7. The government of Sierra Leone emphasizes that while protecting diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is crucial, **it should not be misused or taken as a license to abuse their privileges and immunities.** Diplomatic and consular missions and representatives are expected **to adhere to the laws and regulations of the host country** and should not engage in activities outside the scope of their official capacities.
8. In cases of abuse of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities, the Sierra Leone government urges the sending States concerned to handle such cases **responsibly and cooperatively** while maintaining the privileges and immunities of the institutions and personnel involved. Our commitment remains unwavering in ensuring the safety and security of all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

9. We are equally **concerned over the declining full adherence to the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives**, particularly when the representatives are attending meetings in States hosting international intergovernmental organizations or conferences, with instances of diplomats being subjected to full-body or enhanced searches in airports of such host or receiving States.
10. With the **proliferation of social media**, internet abuse, and the widespread availability of surveillance equipment, there is a growing concern regarding breaches of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and representatives.
11. The **host or receiving States** are obligated to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of diplomatic missions and consular premises. This duty encompasses safeguarding these entities against acts of violence, aggression, and unauthorized surveillance, including the use of sophisticated technologies. It is imperative that diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives benefit from robust protection provided by the host State

in accordance with established international legal obligations.

12. Another critical aspect of diplomatic protection is the **obligation for individuals with such privileges and immunities** to respect the regulations of the receiving State and maintain high standards of conduct. In addition to meeting international law obligations, the **principle of complementarity** plays a significant role in reducing the number of violations. It enables diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives worldwide to undertake their activities and complete their work safely.

Chair,

13. We recognize the need to continue paying full attention to fulfilling our obligations in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic missions and representatives, more especially the inviolability of diplomatic officials and the immovable property associated with their activities.

14. In closing, **Mr. Chair**, Sierra Leone, as a State party to the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the**

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, recognizes the importance of fulfilling the commitments assumed under those treaties. The Government is committed to ensuring the protection, security and safety of the diplomatic missions and representatives accredited in Sierra Leone and can only urge for similar commitment by receiving States with accredited Sierra Leone diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

I thank you.

