



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement at the 79th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 82: Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security
and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives

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Thank you, Chair.

For the normal conduct of relations among states, it is essential that the rules protecting ambassadors, other diplomats, and the premises of consular and diplomatic missions, are respected. These rules are critical to the functioning of diplomacy.

We call on all host governments to fulfill this duty under international law by taking all appropriate steps to protect the premises of a diplomatic or consular mission against any intrusion or damage, to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission, and to prevent any attack on members of the mission. The United States takes its obligations in this regard very seriously. In the United States, we have a comprehensive law enforcement response plan to address identified security challenges to diplomatic premises and personnel, while upholding the U.S. Constitution and freedom of expression.

As the nature and circumstances of attacks on diplomatic and consular personnel have evolved, so too must our preventive and protective measures. Any steps that are necessary and appropriate to protect a mission, and thus that would be required of the receiving state, will depend on the potential threats to a particular mission in that state. In that regard, we welcome any threat information that our international partners can share. Additionally, while security incidents may still occur despite a host state's best efforts, it is important that host states respond promptly and robustly in such cases.

Chair, we appreciate the opportunity that this discussion affords to reemphasize the importance of security for diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The international community has a vital stake in the protection of diplomats and missions, the critical infrastructure of international relations.

Thank you, Chair.