

STATEMENT BY INDIA

AGENDA ITEM: 82 – “CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES” AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

**79th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON 01 NOVEMBER 2024**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/79/143 entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.”

The report, *inter-alia* incorporates information received from certain States regarding serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; and also about the measures taken to ensure that such violations do not take place.

Mr. Chairman,

Diplomatic and consular missions discharge a very sensitive and high responsibility of promoting exchange of views among nations. These institutions have a pivotal role in the development of friendly relations among nations.

The diplomatic and consular representatives require personal protection in order to discharge their official functions smoothly. For this purpose, the security and safety of missions’ premises is paramount for peaceful and workable environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Granting of protection and privileges and immunities to the diplomatic and consular personnel as we all are aware, not to benefit the individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the diplomatic missions.

In this regard, we would like to draw the attention regarding the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter concerning the Sovereign equality of States, maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations.

The role of diplomatic and consular missions is crucial in carrying out the purposes of the United Nations Charter by applying the principles enshrined therein.

The protection of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is thus the basic foundation of diplomatic and international relations between States.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the States have the legal obligation to protect the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The receiving State is obliged to take measures to maintain the security, tranquility and dignity of the premises of diplomatic and consular missions and to prevent violations of the personal freedom and dignity of diplomatic and consular representatives.

The receiving State must not only restrain its own behavior and not infringe upon the immunities of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, but also take necessary actions to prevent diplomatic and consular missions and representatives within its territory from being infringed upon by third parties.

Mr. Chairman,

India made and continue to make every effort to provide a peaceful environment and full facilities for the performance of the functions of the diplomatic and consular missions as well as their representatives on our territory.

However, it is unfortunate and with deep concerns my delegation would like to bring to the notice of this august body that some of India's diplomatic and consular premises as well as missions and their representatives have been the target of acts of violence.

We strongly condemn all acts of violence against the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of our country. It is a serious concern that needs to be addressed effectively.

We firmly believe that crimes against diplomatic agents and other internationally protected persons create a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations which are necessary for cooperation among nations.

Mr. Chairman,

India is a Party to all the Conventions and Protocols relating to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The need of the hour for all States parties is to realize the importance of these instruments and to carry out the obligations assumed there-under with a sense of high responsibility.

India believes that it is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse and in that the safety and security of diplomatic personnel must be fully respected.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we stress that the resolution to be adopted under this agenda item needs to address in an adequate manner the challenges faced in the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. India stands ready to engage constructively in this regard.

I thank you.
