

*Permanent Mission of Brazil
to the United Nations
New York*

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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and, with regard to the letter of reference LA/COD/4 dated 13 February 2024, requesting information pursuant to paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of resolution 77/108, on effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, has the honor to convey the following commentaries:

Brazil takes seriously its commitments to uphold the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and to protect their premises against intrusion and damages, as per Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, as well as customary international law. Assuring this protection is essential for the effective performance of diplomatic and consular activities and the Brazilian Government condemns each breach of security or violation of diplomatic and consular missions' prerogatives in the world.

The Brazilian government has entrusted the role of protecting the premises of the diplomatic missions located in Brasília to a specialized division of the police force, the 5th Battalion of the Military Police of the Federal District – the “Rio Branco” Battalion. The security services provided by the Battalion are grounded in tactical-mobile surveillance. That approach is considered the most appropriate for Brasília, given the city’s specific urban characteristics.

Today, the Brazilian Government recognizes 137 accredited Embassies. Except for a few non-resident missions, most of those occupy areas exclusively designated for diplomatic missions in Brasília. The proximity between Embassies allows for simultaneous and equitable policing of the missions established in the city.

The “Rio Branco” Battalion operates proactively and dynamically, utilizing vehicles, foot patrols, covert teams, as well as aerial and nautical surveillance to enhance the efficacy of its operations. Moreover, the Battalion invests in crime prevention programs and community engagement initiatives, promoting educational activities, lectures and community events. Similar systems of security services and patrolling are conducted in the States that host consulates by specific departments of local law enforcement forces.

Security reinforcement is provided, by request, during specific events such as the holding of elections or national celebrations and in case Brazilian intelligence organs detect heightened risks to the safety of specific missions.

Due to the commitment of the Brazilian Government to safekeeping the premises of the diplomatic and consular missions in its territory, no major incidents in which the safety and integrity of those missions were compromised have been registered in the last year.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 15 May 2024

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