



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**YIDNEKACHEW GEBRE-MESKEL ZEWDU,**

**COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO**

**THE UN**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UNGA**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 80**

**‘CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE**

**THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF**

**DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND**

**REPRESENTATIVES”**

**OCTOBER, 2014**

**NEW YORK**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to start by thanking the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/69/185 entitled “consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. ”

The Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations could not be clearer in professing the sanctity of diplomatic missions and the persons of diplomats than clearly stipulating their inviolability. These Conventions specifically require the host State 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. The obligation also extends to ensuring the treatment of diplomats with due respect and protect them from any attack.

What makes these provisions quiet unambiguous is that the host state is not only duty bound to respect the inviolability of the missions and the person of diplomats, but it also has the responsibility to prevent others from violating the premises and the person of diplomats.

In yet another Convention, States have also the obligation to protect the heads of state or government, foreign ministers, other official representatives from murder, kidnapping or violent attack or other attack upon them or their liberty, as well as from the threat of commission of any of such attack. This is promulgated in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against International Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. This convention further obliges states to ensure these attacks are punishable crimes in their internal laws, prevent the commission of these attacks, and prosecute or extradite persons alleged to have committed the aforementioned crimes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

These diplomatic laws and their continued implementation are the basis for good relations between States. Without protection and security for diplomats and consular officers as well as government representatives, the foundation of good relations between states would be undermined.

My delegation expresses its grave concerns over the unacceptable attacks and violence directed against diplomatic and consular missions, as well as government representatives. Some of Ethiopia's missions and government representatives have been the subject of attacks by hooligans and extremists.

Condemning violent acts that target diplomatic or consular premises is by no means enough; the perpetrators of these crimes should be held accountable. Full investigation shall be carried with a view to bringing the offenders to justice. States have to prevent and prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of missions, representatives and officials. The State in which the violations take place should communicate the measures taken to bring the offenders to justice as well as the final outcome of the proceedings against the offenders; it shall adopt effective measures to prevent a repetition of such violations.

We have witnessed in some instances not all the necessary support is provided to those whose rights are violated. This is a trend which can undermine good relations among states.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ethiopia, as a seat of the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and various diplomatic missions and international organizations, considers these issues seriously and follow up the agenda item with particular interest. My government is exerting maximum efforts to fulfill its obligation in order to preserve and protect the peace, tranquillity and dignity of foreign missions and diplomats and government officials.

Diplomatic Law has its foundation on the principle of reciprocity. Hence, it would not be asking too much to expect Ethiopia's mission as well as its diplomats and representatives to be accorded the same protection as it provides to missions it hosts.

**Thank you!**