



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

at the Sixth Committee

on

Agenda item 80

"Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives"

United Nations

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the report of the Secretary General (A/69/185) on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Violent, including deadly, incidents and attacks involving diplomatic and consular personnel and premises continue to occur. Such failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives is a matter of great concern for us all.

We urge States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the provisions of international law governed by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which the EU Member States fully apply. Respect for these principles is essential. Close cooperation in security matters is needed, not only at the international level, but also nationally between the missions and the competent local authorities.

We strongly condemn the recent attacks against the Indian consulate in the western Afghan province of Herat and against the Turkish Consulate in Mosul as well as other serious attacks against diplomatic and consular missions. We reiterate also that abductions, such as the abduction of a member of the staff of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yemen in July 2013 and others mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, or any kind of violent act against diplomatic and consular missions or their staff can never be justified, wherever they occur. In this regard, we recall that the physical safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, which is a prerequisite for their smooth functioning, is in our common interest and must be secured. We call on all States concerned to bring perpetrators to justice.

Receiving States are also under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the diplomatic missions and consular premises under the two Vienna Conventions. In that context, particular attention must be paid to the threats posed by terrorists and other armed groups, which sometimes force States to shut down their embassies or consulates, as it is happening in Libya and Yemen.

The European Union and its Member States are prepared to participate in all efforts aimed at ensuring and strengthening the right of diplomatic and consular staff to protection and safety.

Mr. Chairman,

The numerous and significant breaches of international law relating to diplomatic and consular relations illustrated in the Secretary General's report show that our efforts in this domain should continue, if not intensify. Everyone is aware of the eminent contribution made by diplomatic relations to the

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

establishment of trust among nations and concord among people. Any acceptance of lessened protection would amount to endangering those objectives.

While commending the States that have become parties to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations since the last report of the Secretary General in July 2012 (A/67/126), we call again upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to these instruments, as well as to all other relevant instruments.

Thank you.