
Translated from French

The Permanent Mission of the Gabonese Republic to the United Nations ... has the honour to refer to his letter No. LA/COD/4 of 10 March 2014, relating to General Assembly resolution 67/94, adopted on 14 December 2012, entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of the Gabonese Republic is pleased to transmit to the Secretary-General the views of the Gabonese Government on the above-mentioned subject.

...

New York, 6 May 2014

Secretary-General

United Nations

New York

Contribution to the report on measures taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives with diplomatic status

Libreville, 24 April 2014

1. This contribution was prepared pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 67/94, by which the Secretary-General invites States to inform him of their views on measures taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives with diplomatic status.
2. Owing to certain incidents that occurred in Gabon concerning the security and safety of diplomatic and consular staff as well as the inviolability of their property, it was imperative to reaffirm the principles of international law on diplomatic and consular relations and to establish new modalities for their application, in order to put an end to these violations.
3. The Gabonese Government would first like to reaffirm the crucial importance of providing effective protection for diplomatic and consular staff in the conduct of international relations. The privileges and immunities enjoyed by diplomatic and consular staff and facilities provide a crucial safeguard against various challenges and pressures. Gabon is of the view that these privileges and immunities, which are designed to facilitate contact, are mutually beneficial to all States.
4. In this regard, the obligation to ensure the personal security and safety of staff is of utmost importance to the Gabonese Government, which is now ready to participate in any efforts aimed at strengthening the right to protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular staff. Gabon is also of the view that host States must strictly observe and enforce the provisions of international law relating to diplomatic and consular relations, because they have a responsibility to protect diplomatic and consular staff and missions against any persons, groups or organizations that seek to threaten their security and safety.
5. This message, which is endorsed by Gabon and is regularly reaffirmed by the international community, is a reminder of the absolute obligation that all States have to ensure that diplomatic and consular relations are free from pressures on both people and property.
6. The contribution of Gabon to the Secretary-General's report is based on an interministerial study led by a working group comprising experts from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Defence, which has highlighted the urgent need to take measures to provide security for accredited diplomatic missions and consular posts in Gabon and their respective officials.

7. This working group, co-chaired by the heads of the National Gendarmerie and the National Police Force, came to the conclusion that a security apparatus should be set up to protect diplomatic agents and premises.

8. The security apparatus, which has already been adopted by the Council of Ministers, will be implemented gradually through short-, medium- and long-term measures.

9. In the short term, a special security apparatus will be set up, whereby three agents on average will be posted to each site (chancellery and residence) in accordance with a pre-established set-up. The Government is aware, however, that additional security will be required for at-risk embassies.

10. To ensure that this measure is effective, a coordination unit will be established to prepare monthly reports on the operation of the security apparatus. It will also organize meetings to raise awareness of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, in order to facilitate interactions between staff and diplomatic personnel, and to ensure the implementation of security measures.

11. A mechanism for timely and concerted communication between the three ministries will also be set up to ensure that investigations into any type of security threat to diplomatic and consular missions or their representatives are brought to a rapid conclusion. Two focal points will be designated by each ministry to implement the mechanism.

12. In the medium and long term, the working group proposes to initiate discussions on the possibility of establishing special preventive security units, which could eventually be converted into a diplomatic police force. The group also suggests that an urban area be set aside exclusively for diplomatic and consular premises.