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**STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY**

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**FIRST SECRETARY  
OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE GAMBIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 84  
“CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE  
PROTECTION, SECURING AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR  
MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES”.**

**NEW YORK, 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation, once again, has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group wishes to express profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document **A/73/189**.

The African Group remains deeply concerned that diplomatic and consular agents still face significant hazards and risks when discharging their duties as diplomats whilst representing their states in a bilateral or multilateral posting.

The African Group call on Member States, in particular, receiving states of diplomats to adhere to international best practices in line with International Law to protect diplomats as stipulated in the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations, respectively.

**Mr. Chair**

It will be recalled that these conventions comprise, for the receiving states, a special duty of protection and a duty to abstain from exercising any enforcement right, in particular, an arrest or detention. The principle of inviolability has to be respected by the authorities of the receiving state.

The African Group reiterates its firm condemnation of any violation of International Law including any prohibited act such as attacks on the person, freedom or dignity of a diplomat. And we encourage states to continue to strictly enforce such prohibitions with a view to preventing any violation against diplomats at all time.

**Mr. Chair**

It is our view that, as states comply with the Terms of the treaties concerning the protection of diplomats and consular agents, must as well protect their properties from violation. States must refrain from subjecting diplomats and their properties from arrest and searches of any kind by their police or armed security forces.

The African Group supports the view that, a receiving state should not only just abstain from harmful conduct but it also needs to take preventive measures to ensure the protection of diplomats from attacks by individuals or groups of persons in accordance with the International Law.

**Mr. Chair,**

The recent episodes of violence and acts of intimidation demonstrate that diplomats experience all sorts of threats and are always at risk. The international community in general, and each member state, in particular, must continue to work relentlessly to ensure that diplomats continue to carry out their functions in the best environment possible, without fear for their own security and that of their families.

In closing, Mr. Chair, we would like to highlight that, the harmonious and smooth conduct of international relations, indeed, depends a lot on the positive mindset and happiness of diplomats.

Receiving states should therefore, ensure that diplomatic envoys and their families are duly protected and are able to work in conducive environments, with the safe knowledge that local authorities can offer free, fair and equal treatment, irrespective of nationality, race or religion as well as adequate protection befitting for any diplomat.

**I thank you.**