



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety
of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

18 October 2018

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil associates itself with the statement delivered by the El Salvador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and takes this opportunity to build on some ideas conveyed in CELAC's statement.

Diplomatic and consular immunities lie at the core of international law, since they protect the channels through which States can dialogue, cooperate and peacefully settle disputes. As recognized in the preamble of both 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions, the respect for rules and principles governing diplomatic and consular relations is essential for developing and strengthening friendly relations among States.

In thanking the Secretary-General for his report under this agenda item, Brazil expresses its concern with the increased number of reported incidents. We note that a significant number of serious situations involving violations of diplomatic and consular immunities, which have been reported by the press worldwide, have not found their way into the compilation prepared by the Secretary-General. My delegation believes that such under-reporting points to a need to update the current reporting mandate, which as established when this item was introduced in the Committee's agenda in 1980.

Mr. Chairman,

The Vienna Conventions affirm that archives and documents shall be inviolable at all times "wherever they may be". They also recognize the inviolability of official correspondence and clearly establish the receiving State's duty to permit free communication of diplomatic and consular missions for all official purposes. These treaties clearly acknowledge that, in order to communicate with their headquarters or other posts, diplomatic and consular missions may employ "all appropriate means".

Information technology has significantly evolved from the 1960s to our days. Today, communications are no longer dependent on physical support and can circulate through technologically sophisticated channels. Archives and documents exist not only on paper, but also on digital platforms. Regardless of all these changes, it remains beyond doubt that diplomatic and consular communications, archives and documents must be protected both offline and online.

From 1980 to 2014, our discussions under this agenda item did not cover this equally relevant aspect of the protection of diplomatic and consular mission and representatives. Brazil was therefore pleased that Resolutions 69/121 and 71/145 contributed to start filling this gap in our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation remains convinced that the resolution to be adopted under this agenda item needs to adequately address the challenges faced in promoting all dimensions of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions. Brazil stands ready to engage constructively in this regard.

Thank you.