

Islamic Republic of
I R A N
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by
Mr. Sattar Ahmadi
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
The Sixth Committee of the
73th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On

**“Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and
safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”**
(Agenda item 82)

New York, 18 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary- General for his report on the agenda item contained in document A/73/189, entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives” which updated us with information on the status of ratification of and accessions to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions.

The fundamental principle of inviolability of the premises of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives is a universally accepted norm and a well-defined obligation under international law which has been observed for centuries in relations among nations. The two Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations of 1961 and 1963, along with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons Including Diplomatic Agents of 1973, are basic instruments stipulating the obligations of States in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The UN Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 1946, and various Headquarter Agreements also should be added to the above mentioned normative framework, with respect to the privileges and immunities of the diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations and international organizations.

These instruments also provide a complete framework for the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic relations on the basis of consent between independent sovereign States and have firmly established themselves as a cornerstone of modern international relations. In this context, the preamble of the Convention on diplomatic relations states that, the privileges and

immunities would contribute to the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems.

In the case of the Privileges and Immunities of the UN and its specialized agencies and Member States accredited to these organizations, the criteria of reciprocity which applies on bilateral relations has been set aside to ensure the proper function of the UN on the basis of principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members. This important issue is enshrined in article 105 of the UN Charter which underscores the importance of the privileges and immunities for the representative of Member States, for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the organization. thus any kind of pressure on members of a diplomatic missions accredited before the United Nations, including any kind of discrimination in providing privileges on the basis of political grounds runs counter the purposes and principles of the UN. It is noteworthy that the GA resolution 72/124, considering the importance of the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations underlines that the observance of their privileges and immunities cannot be subject to any restrictions arising from the bilateral relations of the host country.

As stipulated in article 22 of Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, the premises of the mission shall be inviolable and the receiving State is under a special duty 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. Moreover, several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, on the item under consideration, reiterate the obligations of States with respect to the safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and agents. However, despite measures adopted so far, some Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel have been targeted by illegal acts including intrusion and serious damages and even terrorist attacks in the past two years which resulted in various degrees of damage and casualties. It is a matter of deep concern to my delegation that in certain cases the host countries have not taken appropriate steps and measures, and these illegal acts continue to happen.

In this respect, a Showman who is now staying in the United States, has been provoking his followers in social media to resort to acts of violence, terrorism and vandalism, both inside and outside Iran, including by setting public places such as mosques, banks and etc, on fire. Recently, he asked his followers to identify and attack Iranian embassies, diplomats and their families all over the world. It is unfortunate that this person is free to incite to violence and act of sabotage using online platforms. Such acts have jeopardized the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State Party to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Affairs 1963, continue to remain committed to ensuring due compliance with the provisions of those instruments and in this regard, calls upon all States to take appropriate measures to ensure that the safety and security of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives are strictly observed.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.