

Statement by Mr. Ali Nasimfar
The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
The Sixth Committee of the
75th 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 84
New York, 10 November 2020

Mr. Chairman,

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. The two Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations of 1961 are basic instruments stipulating the obligations of States in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. With respect to the privileges and immunities of the diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations and international organizations, the UN Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 1946 and various Headquarter Agreements should also be added to the above-mentioned normative framework,

Mr. Chairman,

The ability to effectively carry out the work of the diplomatic missions strictly depends on peace, safety, quiet surroundings and the environment that diplomatic and consular missions and representatives are working within.

Despite this fact, we have been facing a considerable rise in amount and range of acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives. Therefore, it is crucial to re-emphasize the duty of states to take all appropriate measures, as required by international law, to prevent harmful acts against diplomatic and consular missions.

As stipulated in article 22 of the 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 the measures adopted so far, some Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel have been targeted by illegal acts, including intrusion, serious damages and even terrorist attacks in the course of the past two years which resulted in various degrees of damage and casualties.

Regrettably, in 2018 and 2019, the Iranian Consulates-General in Basrah, Najaf and Karbala in the Republic of Iraq were the target of rage by protesters. In most of these invasions, attempts by the Host Country's security forces were either insufficient or futile to avoid the brutality and damages. Thus, attackers entered into the diplomatic and consular premises and, in some cases, destroyed properties, supplies, equipment and documents.

Our colleagues in the Iranian consular and diplomatic Missions in those cities submitted several requests to the local authorities and police in order to plan more security arrangements before the attacks, and the security forces were warned beforehand of the eruption of violence against diplomatic and consular premises and properties. However, their response was far from adequate.

We assumed that the receiving state would be responsible to identify, arrest and prosecute the assailants, remedy the situation, bear the costs of damages inflicted and take the effective preventive measures needed in order to ensure that such disturbing events never occurs in the future in line with the provision of Vienna Conventions 1961 and 1963, which recognize the obligations of the receiving state in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and protecting them against any intrusion or damage as a special duty.

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 functioning of the UN on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality of all its Members. It is unfortunate that the Host Country of the UN, by imposing inhumane

movement restrictions on the Iranian Mission and certain other Missions in NYC, has jeopardized this important principle and violated its obligations.

Emphasizing the importance of Article 25 of the Vienna convention 1961, It would be remiss of me if I do not mention the destructive role of Unilateral Coercive Measures and abusing the international financial system, on the proper functioning of Diplomatic Missions in some countries. It is a matter of grave concern that in some cases, the Diplomatic Missions were disrupted form access to their bank accounts due to such unlawful measures.

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, continues to remain committed to ensuring due compliance with the provisions of those instruments and, in this regard, calls upon all States to take the appropriate measures to ensure that the safety and security of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives are strictly observed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.