

**Statement by the Republic of Turkey
on Agenda Item 84
(Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and
safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives)
at the Sixth Committee
10 November 2020**

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives.

Diplomatic and consular relations form the foundation of international relations. The realization of the fundamental purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, such as developing friendly relations among states, peaceful settlement of disputes, and achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, require diplomatic and consular missions to be able to function with full protection, safety and security.

Respect for the rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is of paramount importance in this regard. It is on this basis that the international community can effectively work towards achieving peace, security, human rights and development. The proper functioning of this system is also crucial for States to be able to protect their rights and interests, as well as those of their citizens, in line with the principle of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs.

Unfortunately, acts that impede the important work carried out by diplomatic and consular missions and that put their representatives at risk, continue around the world. Turkey is one of those countries whose missions and representatives are often the target of such threats, acts and attacks, particularly by terrorist organizations and affiliated groups, as evidenced in the Secretary-General's various reports on this matter.

We would like to emphasize once again the duty of States to take all appropriate measures, in line with international law, in a timely manner, for the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives. In this regard, it is of particular importance that local and national authorities of the receiving State duly consider threat assessments conveyed by diplomatic and consular missions, closely cooperate with missions, and swiftly put in place corresponding preventative measures.

On the other hand, in order to preserve the integrity of the universally accepted body of rules that govern diplomatic and consular relations, it is also imperative that diplomatic and consular premises are not used in any manner incompatible with the functions of these missions, and that those who enjoy privileges and immunities respect the laws and

regulations of the receiving State. In recent years, we have witnessed violations of these principles, which must be upheld by all.

Mr. Chair,

When talking about the ever current and pertinent topic of the protection of diplomats, we would be remiss not to highlight a different aspect of this matter, namely the glorification of crimes, including assassinations, committed by terrorist and other groups against representatives of diplomatic and consular missions.

Turkey has lost many diplomats, including one international civil servant, to such attacks and assassinations. Next week, we will mark the 36th anniversary of the loss of Mr. Evner Ergun, who was the target of a terrorist attack while working as deputy director at the United Nations Office in Vienna, to whom a commemorative plaque is devoted in this very building.

We take this opportunity to honor with respect the memory of our citizens and diplomats who have been subject to these heinous and despicable attacks, and express our strongest condemnation of such attacks, as well as of any attempts to glorify their perpetrators.

Thank you.