



Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York



Permanent Mission of Iceland
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
OF DENMARK TO THE UN

Statement by Finland on behalf of the Nordic Countries

United Nations General Assembly 77th Session

Sixth Committee

New York, 17 October 2022, 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Agenda item 82:

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety
of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

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Permanent Mission of Finland

to the United Nations

New York, 17 October 2022

(Check against delivery)

Mr/Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland on Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. This item was originally included in the agenda of the General Assembly on the initiative of the Nordic countries. We continue to pay particular attention to this topic.

It is a matter of great concern for us that diplomatic agents and premises keep falling victims of attacks in the receiving States despite the general recognition of the special duty to protect them.

Mr/Madam Chair, We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report, contained in document A/77/208, as well as for his efforts in circulating the reports of Member States in accordance with paragraph 11 of resolution 75/139 adopted two years ago.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the Member States that have provided information pursuant to this resolution. In our view, such reporting is important as it raises awareness in the world community about violations encountered by the sending states and about measures taken in response to these violations by the receiving states. Furthermore, we believe that the reporting promotes efforts to prevent such violations from taking place.

The report also shows that there are some new States Parties to the international legal instruments relevant in this field. We welcome these new ratifications and accessions and we continue to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Full implementation of such instruments by all States Parties is also of great significance.

Mr/Madam Chair, as the Nordic countries have noted before, an obligation to protect foreign emissaries has existed in the legal systems of all cultures. It is one of the cornerstones of international relations and aimed at protecting the channels of communication between States. Universally recognized rules and principles of international law, as reflected in the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, place upon the receiving States a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the diplomatic and consular premises and to prevent any attacks on the diplomatic and consular representatives.

It is also the duty of the receiving States to accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of the diplomatic missions and the consular posts. We urge States to honour their obligations under international law to provide protection to foreign missions, and to do their utmost to prevent such attacks from taking place on their territory. Where attacks have occurred, they have to be fully investigated and prosecuted. States are also encouraged to engage in a dialogue with the diplomatic missions in their territory with a view to finding the most effective ways in ensuring the full protection of diplomatic premises and representatives.

Mr/Madam Chair, Despite all the efforts undertaken, the Secretary-General's report again documents serious violations that have taken place and we have also learnt about other attacks against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. We express our regrets at injuries suffered in such attacks and condemn all acts of violence in the strongest terms. The Nordic countries wish to emphasize that such violations and attacks can never be justified and must not go unaddressed.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair.