



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. DR. MICHAEL IMRAN KANU**  
Deputy Permanent Representative

at the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item: 82  
**“Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection,  
Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and  
Representatives”**

New York, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

*Check Against Delivery*

**Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone thanks the Secretary-General for his report **A/77/208** on the agenda item: "*Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives*".
2. Enhancing and ensuring the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is of high importance to the delegation of Sierra Leone.
3. We therefore condemn "*all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organization, and [...we underline] that such acts can never be justified*".
4. Given the role of diplomacy in international affairs, there is a common interest, and therefore, common action is needed to address breaches of international diplomatic and consular law, including violent incidents and attacks against diplomatic and consular premises and representatives. The commitment of all States to fully implement the rules of international law on diplomatic and consular relations is therefore an imperative.

5. Serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations must be addressed expeditiously and measures taken to bring offenders to justice, and to prevent repetition of such violations.

**Chair,**

6. The Government of Sierra Leone did not submit a report pursuant to operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 75/139. However, we express our concern over the reported incidents regarding diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

7. We are equally concerned over the declining full adherence to the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, particularly when the representatives are attending meetings in States hosting international intergovernmental organizations, or conferences, with instances of diplomats being subjected to full-body or enhanced searches in airports of such host or receiving States.

8. With the proliferation of social media, and the abuse and misuse of the internet, as well as the availability at retail of surveillance equipment, there is a growing concern over breaches of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and representatives.

9. Host or receiving States have the duty to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic missions and consular premises. The host country's duty to protect diplomatic missions includes not only protecting them against violence and attacks, but also in illegal surveillance, recording and other forms of interference using remote, handheld, or other forms of advance technology. Diplomatic and consular missions and representatives must benefit from robust receiving or host State protection based on the established international law obligations.
10. The other critical side of diplomatic protection is that persons enjoying such privileges and immunities are obliged to respect the regulations of the receiving State and maintain high standards of conduct. We do agree with the view that in addition to complying with the international law obligations, complementarity reduces the number of violations and enables diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives around the world to safely undertake their activities and complete their work.

**Chair,**

11. On our part, no serious violations have been committed with respect to the protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives accredited to Sierra Leone within the reporting period.

12. We do recognize the need to pay full attention, on a continuing basis, to the fulfilment of our obligations in ensuring the security and safety of diplomatic missions and representatives, more especially the inviolability of diplomatic officials and the immovable property associated with their activities.
  
13. For instance, pursuant to section 30 of the Bank of Sierra Leone Act 2019, the Bank of Sierra Leone issued a public notice introducing new currency notes and coins, called the New Leone as our legal tender as of 1st July 2022. The Central Bank of Sierra Leone further imposed measures to transition the New Leone, including the New Leone withdrawal policy, but with clear exemptions for diplomatic and consular missions and representatives acknowledging the importance to allow them to carry out their activities without those monetary restrictions.
  
14. In closing, **Mr. Chair**, Sierra Leone, as a State party to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, recognizes the importance of fulfilling the commitments assumed under those treaties. The Government is committed to ensuring the protection, security and safety of the diplomatic missions and representatives accredited in Sierra Leone and can only urge for similarly commitment by receiving States with accredited Sierra Leone diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.
  
15. I thank you.