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**STATEMENT BY
MS. BEATRICE EFFAH
FIRST SECRETARY/LEGAL**

**DELIVERED TO
THE SIXTH COMMITTEE AT THE 77TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**“Consideration of effective measures to enhance the
protection and safety of diplomatic and consular missions
and representatives”**

(AGENDA ITEM 82)

17th October, 2022
Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations,
New York

Mad Chair,

My delegation believes that the respect for the universally recognized rules governing diplomatic and consular relations, including the special duty of receiving States to protect diplomatic and consular envoys, their premises and archives from harm or damage, is an important pre-requisite for the normal conduct of relations among states in the realization of the objectives and purposes of the United Nations.

These long-established rules of customary international law, codified in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963), serve to ensure that sending States are able to discharge their diplomatic responsibilities without disturbance or interference and foster friendly relations and cooperation among States.

The increasing incidence of violations of the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as evidenced in the Secretary-General's report contained in document no. A/77/208, affect the conduct of diplomacy and the development of friendly relations among states, which is a key pillar for sustaining international peace. Such violations are unjustifiable and should not have a place in the conduct of relations among States, regardless of who the perpetrators may be. We should therefore enhance cooperation at the national and international levels to strengthen preventive and protection measures.

Terrorism, cyber-attacks and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conduct of diplomatic relations, in our view, call for a constructive dialogue and a rethinking of conventional protection measures in order to keep up with emerging threats while preserving the customary norms of the inviolability of diplomatic missions and representatives.

Mad. Chair,

We strongly condemn all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to intergovernmental organizations and stand in solidarity with the victims of violations that have affected the premises, archives, channels of communication or the person of the representative.

Ghana remains committed to the special duty of protection and through the efforts of the Diplomatic Protection Unit under the Ghana Police Service works to ensure the effective protection, safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in the country. As security threats widen in range and complexity sending States must also endeavour to enhance the security awareness and responsiveness of their personnel to help mitigate risk.

Diplomatic relations between States are reciprocal in nature and for that reason, diplomatic and consular representatives must, on their part, ensure full compliance with the national laws and regulations of the receiving State in fulfilment of their international obligations in this regard. We continue to encourage all diplomatic representations to communicate through the formal channels with the receiving governments in order to properly preserve the immunities and privileges of diplomatic and consular agents.

In closing, we would like to encourage States that have not already done so, to become parties to the international instruments relevant to the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives.

thank you