



## VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and with reference to note LA/COD/4 of 17 December 2020, and to paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 of the UN General Assembly resolution 75/139 of 15 December 2020 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" has the honour to inform the following:

On 21 July 2020, a person trespassed the yard of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Helsinki. The person walked across the Embassy's yard without touching anything and climbed over the fence on the opposite side of the yard. On 22 July 2020, the same person trespassed the area of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Helsinki by climbing over the fence of the area. The person walked in the Embassy yard and climbed on the Embassy's roof. The suspect was identified and interrogated. He was imposed a fine for invasion of public premises.

On 25 February 2022, three petrol bombs were thrown to the area of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Turku. The criminal investigation is currently closed. The police have not received any camera surveillance material or the material already obtained has not been helpful in the criminal investigation. A technical investigation was conducted, but it did not help establish the identity of the suspect/suspects. On 27 February 2022, the wall of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Turku was smeared with air balloons inflated with cow's blood. Two persons were apprehended from the scene. The case is being investigated as an act of criminal damage. The perpetrators have admitted the act.

Between 25 February and 3 May 2022, several acts against the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Helsinki took place. The acts are under pre-trial investigation. In some of the cases, it has not been possible to identify the perpetrator, while in others the perpetrator has been identified and/or apprehended and interrogated. The offence designations include invasion of public premises, false report of a danger, criminal damage, violation of the Waste Act, defamation, attempted assault and petty criminal damage.

Between 5 and 6 March 2022, the Belarusian flag was stolen from the flagpole of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Helsinki, and an Ukrainian flag was attached next to the Embassy's buzzer. The criminal investigation has been suspended at this stage until the police receive further information on the suspect.

The Helsinki Police Department has intensified the monitoring of the embassy area (especially the Embassy of the Russian Federation) in February 2022. In addition to patrols that normally secure the diplomatic missions, an additional patrol/patrols have been set up in the area. During demonstrations, the police has intensified the monitoring of public order and especially the security of the diplomatic missions.

The Finnish authorities wish to assure the Secretary-General that they take very seriously their duty to take all appropriate action to protect the premises of diplomatic missions against any intrusion or damage, and to prevent any attack on the person of the staff

members of the missions. Finland also wishes to emphasize the importance of co-operation on security matters, not only at the international but also at the national level, between the missions and the competent local authorities.

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs the assurance of its highest consideration.

New York, 13 May 2022