



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

No: N173/22

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale No. LA/COD/4 of 11 January 2022 has the honour to submit the report by the Republic of Slovenia regarding the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2020 (A/RES/75/139) on the Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration. *ma*

New York, 5 May 2022

**The Office of Legal Affairs
of the United Nations**

NEW YORK



Report by the Republic of Slovenia regarding the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2020 (A/RES/75/139) on the Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The Republic of Slovenia has the honour to submit herewith, within the agreed time frame, a report to the Secretary-General on the Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.¹

The report describes the security situation regarding diplomatic and consular missions and representatives officially present in the territory under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as regarding Slovenian diplomatic and consular missions abroad. For both groups, the report also describes the measures taken by the Republic of Slovenia to prevent or reduce security risks.

Introductory words

Diplomatic and consular missions operate in environments that differ according to the security situation in the relevant country. Nowadays, we see the emergence of new sources of threats, which are more efficient than before and, above all, more advanced. With the international environment becoming unstable and unpredictable, it is crucial to gain a clear perception of the different sources of security threats in order to ensure the security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Through certain mechanisms, the Republic of Slovenia and its competent authorities seek to ensure the safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and manage crises arising from various causes such as natural disasters or the extreme deterioration of political or social conditions due to violence, armed conflict, epidemic, war or terrorist attack.

¹ Refers to diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organisations.

I. Incidents against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Slovenia and measures taken by Slovenian competent authorities

The security situation in the Republic of Slovenia does not currently pose any immediate threats or increased security risks to foreign diplomatic and consular missions; as a result, these are classified as potentially (low) risk facilities. The same applies for representatives. At present, there is no activity indicating that their risk level has changed or increased.

The Police monitors the security situation in the Republic of Slovenia. In the event of information or actions that could affect the security of facilities or diplomatic personnel, the Police acts in accordance with its competences.

In 2021, there were isolated incidents of attempted burglaries of diplomats' residences, vandalism (graffiti), threats by e-mail and a few incidents with political connotations in the form of vandalism. Similar acts against the diplomatic community were also detected in 2020. In the wake of terrorist attacks around the world, one mission has requested additional protection.

Slovenia reaffirms its commitment to take appropriate action to protect the premises of missions and their personnel from any form of attack. Incidents at diplomatic and consular missions are dealt with individually and with due diligence.

Diplomatic and consular missions report the incidents to the Diplomatic Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia or, in some cases, directly to the Police or other competent security authority.

To prevent further violations, Slovenia strives for effective communication and close cooperation between diplomatic and consular missions and the Slovenian competent authorities.

II. Incidents against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of Slovenia abroad, including preventive measures

This section presents a general framework for ensuring effective measures for Slovenian diplomatic and consular missions and representatives abroad. It also contains a report on a recent incident against the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

1. On 1 March 2022, the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Kharkiv, Ukraine, headed by an Honorary Consul, was severely damaged in an attack on nearby civilian facilities. On 4 March 2022, the Republic of Slovenia notified the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court of the attack on the Slovenian Consulate in Kharkiv pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute and provided evidence (photographs). On 13 March 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine communicated by a diplomatic note that, according to the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the premises of the Slovenian Consulate had been substantially damaged by Kalibr missiles at around 8 a.m. on 1 March 2022. The missiles primarily hit the building of the Kharkiv State Regional Administration in the immediate vicinity of the Consulate two times. According to the diplomatic note, the Ukrainian side will submit the evidence about this incident together with its claims against the Russian Federation in the international courts. The incident is also being investigated by the Slovenian Special Prosecutor's Office.

2. The Security Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for ensuring the protection of persons, facilities and property of diplomatic and consular missions abroad. The level and means of protection of individual diplomatic or consular missions depend on the security situation on the ground.

In the past, Slovenian diplomatic and consular missions have faced a variety of security incidents, including protests outside diplomatic or consular premises, attempts at unauthorised entry, threatening calls and letters, protest signs about the political situation on or near mission buildings, visitors demanding more security attention because of their behaviour, and attempts to break into security systems. Some diplomatic or consular missions have received mail with suspicious contents and, on several occasions, attempts to hack into IT systems have been identified.

III. Slovenia's health measures during the epidemic

This section provides a general insight into Slovenia's measures and actions during the epidemic, which are not directly related to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and its representatives, but are of relevance and worth highlighting at this crucial time.

At the time of the pandemic, Slovenia is striving to strengthen security by providing vaccination and sanitary protective equipment such as masks, disinfectants, protective gloves and surface disinfectants to its missions and representatives abroad. Slovenia also seeks to assist foreign diplomatic and consular missions by equipping them with digital thermometers.

With the above health measures in place, Slovenia strives to improve the global health situation.

IV. Slovenia's view pursuant to paragraph 13 of Resolution 75/139 on enhancing the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organisations

Slovenia is committed to the comprehensive protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. On the one hand, it is necessary that the receiving State ensures respect for privileges and immunities. On the other, persons enjoying such privileges and immunities are obliged to respect the regulations of the receiving State and maintain high standards of conduct. Complementarity in terms of offering and receiving reduces the number of violations and enables diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives around the world to complete their mission.