

STATEMENT BY MR. DEREK O'BRIEN, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM: 81 - "CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES" AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 24, 2012

**Mr. Chairman,**

We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/67/126 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives."

The report, *inter-alia* incorporates information received from certain States regarding serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; and also about the measures taken to ensure that such violations do not take place.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We consider that the diplomatic and consular missions discharge a very sensitive and high responsibility of promoting exchange of views among nations. These institutions have a pivotal role in the development of friendly relations among nations.

The diplomatic and consular representatives require personal protection in order to discharge their official functions smoothly. So is required the security and safety of missions' premises to ensure a peaceful and workable environment.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Granting of protection and privileges and immunities to the diplomatic and consular personnel is not to benefit them individually. It is for ensuring the efficient performance of their official functions.

We draw the attention to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter concerning the sovereign equality of States, maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations.

The role of diplomatic and consular missions is crucial in carrying out the purposes of the United Nations Charter by applying the principles enshrined therein.

The protection of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is thus the basic foundation of diplomatic and international relations between States.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We strongly condemn all acts of violence against the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. It is a serious concern that needs to be addressed effectively.

We firmly believe that crimes against diplomatic agents and other internationally protected persons create a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations which are necessary for cooperation among nations.

With the aim of ensuring the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the international community has concluded international instruments, including the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations; and on Consular Relations and their Protocols; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India is a Party to these conventions and protocols. The need of hour for all States parties is to realize the importance of these instruments and to carry out the obligations assumed there-under with a sense of high responsibility. We stress the need for those States that have not already done so to become a party to these instruments.

India believes that it is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse and in that the safety and security of diplomatic personnel must be fully respected.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman,** we stress that in addition to the existing international instruments, all measures that are necessary to protect the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, must be taken at all levels.

**I thank you Mr. Chairman.**

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