



STATEMENT BY MR. A.K.S. VIJAYAN, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER
OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 148: REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY AT THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 61ST SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
NOVEMBER 09, 2006

Thank You Mr. Chairman

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country is a useful forum for addressing the issues related to the functioning of Member States' missions and for enabling their representatives to perform their functions without any hindrance.

This year the Committee had examined a number of problems related to transportation, privileges and immunities of diplomatic personnel, entry visas and the host country's travel regulations. The open and transparent exchanges of views in this forum prove helpful in understanding and addressing the issues in question.

We appreciate the United States commitment as the host country to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Host Country Agreement, to accord facilities to the missions accredited to the United Nations to ensure their smooth functioning. The issue relating to imposition of municipal taxes on diplomatic missions is one such issue to which the host country is giving due attention.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that the host country has a right to monitor and control entry into its territory and to adopt the requisite security measures it deems necessary. This has to be balanced, on the one hand with the right of the delegations to participate in the work of the United Nations and on the other to ensure that the delegations do not misuse their privileges and immunities.

We welcome the steps taken to address the parking problems of diplomatic missions through the efficient implementation of the Parking Program for Diplomatic vehicles and hope that the remaining issues in this respect, including the request for parking slots by our Mission, would also be addressed soon.

Thank You Mr. Chairman

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