



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE ABDUL RAHIM BAKRI,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MALAYSIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 76: CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE
PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC
AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES,
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 61st SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2006

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation welcomes the Secretary General's Report on the "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" for the further consideration of this Committee. We wish to also place on record our appreciation of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in the fulfilment of their mandate under General Assembly resolution 59/37 of 2 December 2004.

2. We express our appreciation also to the countries that have shared their experiences through their reports to the Secretary General pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 59/37. The Report provides a real life context of the challenges that face not only those who serve in this field but also the national authorities whose responsibility it is to ensure their States fulfil their international obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and its Optional Protocols, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 and its Optional Protocols, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

Mr. Chairman,

3. It is unquestionably important for States to ensure the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as that of missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations if these representatives of sovereign States and recognized international legal bodies are to be able to carry out their work in furthering international friendly relations and the maintenance of international peace and security effectively and without fear.

4. It is noted from the Secretary General's Report that the United Nations Conventions that serve as the international legal framework for the protection of diplomatic and consular

missions as well as delegation offices of international organizations enjoy almost universal adherence at this time. The relatively small number of reports received from States on serious violations of these protections also augurs well and reflects that States are generally fulfilling their duties and responsibilities under the international protection regime effectively.

5. However my delegation remains concerned at the continuing acts of violence against the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions as well as delegation offices of international organizations such as the United Nations. These offices are generally easy targets as they are the public “face” of their respective States or organizations. Their vulnerability is also increased due to the need for public accessibility if they are to carry out their mandated functions in their host countries.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia supports any measure that would enhance the protections available and welcomes the constructive views of Qatar, Finland and Ecuador in this regard. The point made by Qatar on the importance of reciprocity is particularly pertinent to ensure adequate protective measures are in place and that timely and effective response and action will be taken on any serious violation of the prescribed protections.

7. Malaysia has enacted the necessary legislation to give force of law to the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

8. The Government of Malaysia and its law enforcement authorities, in particular the Royal Malaysia Police, take their role and responsibility in safeguarding the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as that of missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations seriously. Security and protection measures are accorded according to the level of perceived threat and prompt response and action is taken with regard to any reported incidents or violations of the law.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In conclusion, Malaysia reiterates its’ commitment to the principles and obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, their related Protocols to which it is party, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents and undertakes to work together with the other States Parties for the more effective implementation of those instruments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.