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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 82: "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives"

19 October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations are grounded on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those relating to the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs, the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of friendly relations among States.

However, acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives continue and their security and safety are being increasingly threatened and impaired.

In his report (A/77/208) submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 75/139 of 15 December 2020, the Secretary-General, among other violations, documented a number of violent acts committed against the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of Azerbaijan in seven Member States in July 2020. Hatred and racist motivations behind these acts are beyond dispute.

In all these instances, the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of Azerbaijan were targeted by radical members of Armenian communities in those countries, involving attacks on the inviolability of the premises of the missions, acts of vandalism and aggressive, offensive and insulting conduct. As a result, material damage was caused and there were even those injured among the personnel.

In most of these incidents, measures taken by the receiving States to prevent violence and ensure the protection, security and safety of the diplomatic and consular missions and their staff were either insufficient or futile.

It is essential to recall that, in paragraph 11 (b) of its resolution 75/139, the General Assembly urged the States in which the violations took place and the States where the alleged offenders are present to report to the Secretary-General on measures taken to bring these individuals to justice and to communicate, in accordance with their laws, the final outcome of the proceedings against them, and to report on measures adopted with a view to preventing a repetition of such violations.

We note with profound regret and concern that, according to our knowledge, not only was not a single perpetrator held accountable for the violations against the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives of Azerbaijan, but within two years only two of the seven States in which these violations took place reported to the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 75/139, while one of these two States informed that an investigation had never opened owing to lack of evidence.

As a consequence, impunity encouraged the same radical communities in different countries to resort to new threats and provocations. As in previous instances, our diplomatic missions have continued facing similar inadequate prevention, protection and accountability measures.

While considering the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the past violent practice resorted to by certain extremist groups, the glorification of crimes committed on similar or related grounds, including against diplomatic and consular representatives, should not be overlooked.

Thus, those behind today's attacks against our diplomatic and consular missions are responsible for numerous terrorist acts committed in my country in the early 1990s, including in the capital city of Baku, in the subway, buses, trains and other means of transport, which killed thousands of the citizens of Azerbaijan.

Moreover, at that time and in the subsequent period, the same radical diaspora communities, operating under the disguise of charity organizations and NGOs, were engaged in facilitating the recruitment and transfer of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries and in raising funds and collecting other material means to finance terrorist activities and support the aggression against Azerbaijan.

In identifying effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the resolution of the General Assembly is very clear in stating that States have the duty to take all appropriate and timely measures for the prevention of any acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and ensuring their protection, security and safety, including by preventing and prohibiting in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of such acts, as well as for ensuring that offenders are brought to justice.

Azerbaijan will continue to encourage further efforts to ensure enhanced protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, in accordance with the two Vienna Conventions.

Thank you.