



Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia and Albania , the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We thank the Secretary General for his report (A/75/168). As showed therein, breaches of international diplomatic and consular law persist. Violent incidents and attacks involving diplomatic and consular staff and premises continue to occur. This requires intensified common action. We urge all States to strictly implement the international law of diplomatic and consular relations. Respect for diplomatic and consular law contributes to building trust and confidence among nations, and it is at the core of diplomatic relations.

We strongly condemn attacks against diplomatic and consular missions. We reiterate that any kind of violent act against diplomatic and consular missions or their staff can never be justified, wherever they occur. Under the two Vienna Conventions, receiving States are under the duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the diplomatic missions and consular premises.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Diplomatic and consular law must be upheld in normal circumstances and crisis circumstances alike. We welcome efforts made by governments around the world to prevent and curb the spread of COVID-19, and acknowledge the duty of the diplomatic agents and consular officers to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including measures put in place to protect public health. However, this is without prejudice to their privileges and immunities.

In this context, we would like to stress that diplomatic agents

Receiving States may not take measures capable of affecting or interfering with the principle of free communication between diplomatic and consular