Statement of Egypt before the Sixth Committee
on "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and
safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives"
Item 81 - 24 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for
his report on this item (A/67 /126).

The obligation to protect foreign missions is a cornerstone of international relations,
which aims at effectively preserving the channels of communication between States. The rules and provisions of the Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations are well established principles of international law, and it is crucial that they are duly observed as to enable foreign representatives and officials to effectively fulfill their mandates.

Cairo is one of very few capitals around the world that hosts almost two hundred foreign missions representing States and International Intergovernmental Organizations and Institutions. With more than 160 diplomatic and consular missions abroad, Egypt also has one of the widest diplomatic representations around the world. We thus give this item utmost priority.

In this regard, the Egyptian authorities have always strictly observed, implemented
and enforced the provisions of international diplomatic law. Even during the exceptional security situation posed by the overwhelmingly peaceful 25th January 2011 revolution, the Egyptian authorities demonstrated their full commitment to the safety and security of all diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, motivated by the genuine belief that respect for these principles is mandatory, and that any act of violence against diplomatic missions can never be justified, wherever it occurs.

In this context, the Egyptian government has condemned, at the highest level and in
the strongest terms, all incidents of violence that occurred against a number of US diplomatic missions around the world as a reaction to the recent unacceptable and unjustified acts of incitement and provocation that occurred against the prophet (PBUH). We have condemned in particular, the attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the tragic death of the Ambassador and three other US officials. We truly expressed our heartfelt condolences to their families.

Mr. Chairman,

With regards to the demonstrations that took place in front of the US embassy in
Cairo at the beginning of September 2012, we underline that while fully respecting the rights of our citizens to demonstrate peacefully, the Egyptian police has taken all necessary measures to protect the embassy, and has not hesitated to arrest those who have breached the law. Throughout the three days of demonstrations one hundred forty-five protesters were arrested and 53 policemen were injured. The Egyptian authorities have constructed road blocks on the main streets leading to the US embassy to guarantee the full protection of the premises and the staff members. No embassy staff or representative has been injured or hurt, and all persons arrested are being duly prosecuted by the Egyptian Judiciary.

In that context, our delegation is bewildered by the European Union delegation's call
to bring the perpetrators to justice, in its statement on 22 October under this item. We reject such call, and invite the delegation of the European Union to pursue accuracy and carefully consider all circumstances surrounding the different events before calling for a certain action.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we encourage all states to increase their efforts in the protection of the security and safety of diplomatic and consular mission and representatives. We are all aware of the eminent contributions made by diplomatic relations to the building of trust among nations, and it is our collective commitment to sustain and promote such trust.

I thank you.

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