



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly, Sixth Committee: Debate on agenda item 82

**Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the  
Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel**

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**Statement by**  
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First Secretary / Legal Adviser

Mr. Chairman

As the Secretary-General recently reported to the General Assembly, during the past year United Nations and associated personnel deployed in a broad range of field operations continued to be subjected to a great number of threats such as hostage taking, physical assault, robbery, theft, harassment and detention, and security incidents appear to have risen. This is to some extent due to the rising number of staff deployed in the field, such as in humanitarian relief operations following natural disasters, but also to the atmosphere of impunity which reigns in some of the areas where UN personnel are deployed. With the enhancement of the UN security management system, under the leadership of the Department of Safety and Security, the UN Secretariat has made great efforts in addressing those security aspects which can be dealt with from within the organization. As far as the legal protection provided is concerned, however, Member States are lagging behind.

The shortcomings of the 1994 Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel are well known to all of us, and we have for several years worked on a solution which should achieve several goals: expanding the scope of legal protection of the 1994 Convention, addressing the legitimate concerns of host States, and attracting more ratifications with a view to universalizing this legal regime. We were very pleased to see so many delegations working actively towards these goals in the informal consultations held in the last months, including within the Working Group. In these consultations, we have come very close to a text agreeable to all interested States, including those most affected in this matter: countries hosting UN operations, and countries contributing personnel to UN operations. Liechtenstein therefore wishes these efforts to continue over the next days with a view to finalizing our work during the fall session of the Sixth Committee. We can not justify any further delay in this task.

I thank you.