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Agenda item 82

**Consideration of effective measures to enhance the
protection, security and safety of diplomatic and
consular missions and representatives**

**Letter dated 14 August 2025 from the Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you from the Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad and African Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Ahmed Attaf, to bring to your attention the restrictive measures imposed by the French authorities on the delivery and retrieval of diplomatic bags to and from the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 82.

(Signed) Amar **Bendjama**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/124](#), I have the honour to bring to your attention the restrictive measures imposed by the French authorities on the delivery and retrieval of diplomatic bags to and from the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France.

On 23 July 2025, without any prior notice, the French authorities cancelled all the permits held by the Algerian Embassy in France granting its accredited officials access to restricted access areas in French airports. That restrictive measure was later extended to all Algerian consular posts established in France.

Those permits had been issued to accredited officials of the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and consistent with the practice of France in this area. They consisted of badges granting permanent access to restricted access areas of airports for the delivery and retrieval of diplomatic bags.

In response to that restrictive measure, the Algerian authorities sought clarification from their French counterparts, in both Algiers and Paris. The French authorities acknowledged that the restrictive measure had been implemented in an opaque manner and consequently promised to remedy the situation. However, despite that promise, the restriction remains in force to this day.

Accordingly, and in strict application of the principle of reciprocity, the Algerian authorities have decided to impose an equivalent restrictive measure on the French diplomatic mission and consular posts in Algeria. They have informed the French authorities that this measure will be lifted as soon as the restriction imposed on the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France is rescinded.

The restrictive measure imposed by the French authorities constitutes a clear violation of the international commitments of France under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and the Consular Convention between Algeria and France (1974).

- First, the measure in question contradicts the obligation of the receiving State to ensure the proper functioning of diplomatic and consular missions established in its territory. Article 25 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations stipulates that the receiving State shall accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of the diplomatic missions established in its territory. Similarly, under article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the receiving State is obliged to allow consular posts to perform their functions freely. Obstructing the delivery and retrieval of diplomatic bags is a direct violation of those provisions.
- Second, with regard specifically to the delivery and retrieval of diplomatic bags, article 27, paragraph 7, of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations stipulates that “the mission may send one of its members to take possession of the diplomatic bag directly and freely from the captain of the aircraft”. Similarly, article 35, paragraph 7, of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations stipulates that “the consular post may send one of its members to take possession of the bag directly and freely from the captain of the ship or of the aircraft”. In that regard, it should be recalled that, in the course of its work, the International Law Commission has previously stated that the words “directly and freely” mean that the diplomatic bag must be delivered or retrieved from

the hands of the captain to those of the designated official, and vice versa, without interference from any intermediary individual.

- Third, the same procedure for delivering and retrieving diplomatic bags is also enshrined in the 1974 Consular Convention between Algeria and France. Article 13, paragraph 7, of that Convention explicitly recognizes the right of the consular post to “send one of its members to take possession of the bag directly and freely from the captain of the ship or aircraft”.
- Fourth, in accordance with this commitment regarding the handling of diplomatic bags, France traditionally grants to diplomatic and consular missions accredited in its territory permanent access badges for restricted access areas of airports. The withdrawal of this facility from the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France constitutes a violation of the obligations arising from the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Consular Convention between Algeria and France.
- Fifth, the restrictive measure imposed by the French authorities violates the principle of non-discrimination against diplomatic and consular missions, enshrined in article 47 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and article 72 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Those provisions prohibit any discrimination in the application of the privileges and immunities granted to diplomatic and consular missions. Yet, the measure taken by the French authorities is aimed exclusively at officials of the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France, while other diplomatic and consular missions established in France continue to be granted permanent access badges for restricted access areas of airports. Consequently, the measure imposed on the Algerian diplomatic mission and consular posts in France is clearly discriminatory and is incompatible with the international obligations of France.

These are the facts that I wished to bring to your attention. I request that you include the present letter in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution [79/124](#) relating to the review of measures taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 82.

(Signed) Ahmed **Attaf**
