

## Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country



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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

1. The Committee on Relations with the Host Country was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI). The Assembly, by its resolution 68/120, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country". The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 68/120.
2. The report consists of four sections. The recommendations and conclusions of the Committee are contained in section IV.

## Chapter II

### Membership, composition, terms of reference and organization of the work of the Committee

3. The Committee is composed of 19 members, as follows:

Bulgaria	Iraq
Canada	Libya
China	Malaysia
Costa Rica	Mali
Côte d'Ivoire	Russian Federation
Cuba	Senegal
Cyprus	Spain
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Honduras	United States of America
Hungary	

4. The Bureau of the Committee consists of the Chair, the three Vice-Chairs, the Rapporteur and a representative of the host country who attends Bureau meetings *ex officio*. During the reporting period, the Bureau was composed as follows:

*Chair:*

Nicholas Emiliou (Cyprus)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Boyan Belev (Bulgaria)

Giles Andrew Norman (Canada)

Koffi Narcisse Date (Côte d'Ivoire) — Théodore Dah (Côte d'Ivoire)

*Rapporteur:*

Georgina Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica)

5. At its 266th meeting, the Committee was informed of the departure of Théodore Dah (Côte d'Ivoire), who had served as Vice-Chair. In accordance with its established practice, the Committee elected by acclamation Koffi Narcisse Date (Côte d'Ivoire) as Vice-Chair.

6. The terms of reference of the Committee were determined by the General Assembly in its resolution 2819 (XXVI). In May 1992, the Committee adopted, and in March 1994 slightly modified, a detailed list of topics for its consideration, which is set out in annex I to the present report. The Committee issued two documents during the reporting period, which are listed in annex II.

7. During the reporting period, the Committee held the following meetings: the 265th meeting, on 6 February 2014; the 266th meeting, on 22 April 2014; the 267th meeting, on 31 July 2014; the 268th meeting, on 1 October 2014; and the 269th meeting, on 4 November 2014.

## Chapter III

### Topics dealt with by the Committee

#### A. Entry visas issued by the host country<sup>1</sup>

8. At the 265th meeting, the representative of China said that he wished to draw the host country's attention to issues that had previously been raised by his Mission but that had not yet been settled, with a view to facilitating a settlement. To enable the personnel from his Mission to properly organize their entry, exit and travel arrangements, he would like the host country to provide general rules applicable to mission personnel concerning freedom of movement. He asked whether there were any travel restrictions different from the general restrictions applicable to certain missions and, if there were, what their legal foundations were.

9. The representative of the host country proposed that the issues raised should be discussed bilaterally after the meeting, given that many of them were specific to the Permanent Mission of China.

10. At the 266th meeting, the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his delegation's serious concerns regarding the denial by the host country of an entry visa to the designated Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

11. He underlined the Committee's unique responsibility in upholding the obligations of the host country authorities within the framework of international law and under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations. That was a requirement for the normal functioning of diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations. His delegation and other Member States that referred their issues to the Committee and participated in its meetings expected the concerns and complaints raised to be effectively addressed by the relevant authorities of the host country in coordination with the Committee.

12. He said that his delegation had communicated its concerns over entry visas numerous times. Two Iranian diplomats designated more than five months previously to perform their functions at the United Nations had not yet received their entry visas. Another diplomat, previously posted in New York until 2008, had only just received his entry visa after a two-year wait. In another recent case, visa clearance had been rescinded and a member of the Iranian delegation told to wait for a new process to be completed. When members of the Iranian delegation left the country, they and their families were required to complete, at times, extremely long and unpredictable processes to obtain return visas. During the previous summer, many of his colleagues and their families had been unable to travel home because they had only received their visas weeks after schools had reopened. There had been cases in which entry visas had not been issued for all family members, rendering it impossible for them to travel. In the case of a family emergency, the return visa process was an impediment. The Iranian delegation could not find justification for the process. It had continuously communicated its concerns to the host country and requested its intervention so that visas for Iranian officials participating in United

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<sup>1</sup> The Chair informed the Committee that the discussion held on the topic would be reflected in the Committee's report at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Nations meetings and staff of the Permanent Mission might be issued in time to facilitate the performance of the officials' functions. The situation continued and the obligations of the host country were ignored.

13. He said that Hamid Aboutalebi, who had been designated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to serve as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was a seasoned and well-known career diplomat who had already held three ambassadorial posts. A visa application had been filed early in December 2013 and his delegation had been astonished to hear on 11 February 2014 that a visa would not be issued.

14. He said that the Headquarters Agreement unambiguously stated that its provisions should be upheld "irrespective of the relations existing between the Governments of the persons ... and the Government of the United States". He cited parts of sections 11 and 13 (a) of the Agreement and stated that the actions of the host country contradicted principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereign equality of States and respect for their sovereignty and their political independence. As had been indicated in his delegation's note verbale to the Chair, the decision of the host country had serious negative implications for multilateral diplomacy, given that it could set a dangerous precedent and adversely affect the work of intergovernmental organizations and the activities of Member States.

15. He explained that his Government had expressed its protest in a note verbale to the host country. His Government called upon the Legal Counsel of the United Nations to take all measures necessary to have the United States authorities abide by their obligations under the Headquarters Agreement. He requested the Committee to pursue this matter in an urgent and serious manner, with a view to ensuring that the host country's obligations under the Headquarters Agreement are fully met, including by reconsidering the decision regarding the issue at hand. He stated that his delegation believed that the United Nations Secretary-General, who represented one party of the Headquarters Agreement, also had a responsibility to ensure the terms and provisions of the Agreement were observed.

16. The observer for Belarus said that his delegation sympathized with the Iranian delegation and shared its concern that a fundamental principle had been violated. He expressed the belief that the creators of the United Nations had been wise to avoid the practice of any sort of agreement on or accreditation of permanent representatives, thus avoiding passing any judgement as to whether a candidate was appropriate to represent his or her sovereign country. Certain fundamental rules governing the functioning of the multilateral body had not been respected to their fullest and the United Nations, as a party to the Headquarters Agreement, should address the issue as a matter of urgency, taking all steps necessary to avoid setting a precedent.

17. The representative of Cuba reiterated his delegation's position regarding the obligations of the host country, stating that the situation affected the Islamic Republic of Iran and the performance of the work of its Mission. The authorities of the host country were responsible for any incident that might occur as a result of the failure to respect its obligations as the host country. The host country was putting in place obstacles to the normal functioning of diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations. As in the past, he urged respect for international law and the sovereignty of the decisions of Member States, saying that the host country had the

responsibility to strictly fulfil the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Headquarters Agreement.

18. The observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that his delegation was alarmed by the information conveyed in the remarks made by the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The host country had no legal ground to deny a permanent representative an entry visa, irrespective of his or her country. International law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Headquarters Agreement and the Vienna Convention, stipulated that the host country was obliged to provide all the conveniences and services to the countries represented at the United Nations. Every country had equal sovereign rights under the Charter and the Islamic Republic of Iran was no exception. Although there could be a small difference between each country, permanent representatives were all appointed or approved by Heads of State, representing the sovereignty of a given country. His delegation insisted that international law should be carefully considered to ensure that the incident did not set a precedent in international relations.

19. The representative of China expressed his delegation's regret that the host country had refused to issue an entry visa to a designated permanent representative of a mission of a Member State. That state of affairs did not conform to the Headquarters Agreement, he said, expressing the hope that the parties concerned would enhance their dialogue and seek an appropriate resolution in a constructive and cooperative spirit within the framework of international law.

20. The observer for Ecuador expressed concern about the unilateral decision to refuse an entry visa to the designated Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which he believed contravened public international law and the Headquarters Agreement and also affected the basic principles of the United Nations and the sovereignty of States. He considered that it could set a precedent that might affect the functioning of a permanent mission and the Organization as a whole. He did not recognize the right to affect public international law on the basis of an excuse of national legislation and considered that the status of bilateral relations must not affect the issuance of visas for permanent representatives. He agreed with the delegations that had called upon the Committee to take steps to resolve the serious problem in the context of public international law.

21. The representative of the host country stressed that the United States took its responsibilities as host country seriously and was mindful of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement. The United States received thousands of applications annually for entry visas to transit to and from the Headquarters district and had an excellent track record of issuing such visas. Some applications required further administrative processing, which took additional time, she said, stressing that applicants were advised of that requirement when they applied. When administrative processing was required, the timing varied according to the circumstances of each case. The visa request for Mr. Aboutalebi had been taken extremely seriously.

22. She referred to events in 1979, when Iranian students had seized and taken over the United States embassy in Tehran and held United States diplomats hostage for 444 days. The hostage crisis had been a painful event in the history of the United States. At that time, Mr. Aboutalebi had been a member of the group responsible for the takeover. While he had claimed not to have been in Tehran when the embassy was seized, whether that was the case or not, he had acknowledged publicly that, after the storming of the embassy, he had later entered the premises on a couple of



occasions to help to translate for the hostage-takers, including in public press conferences. When travelling to Algeria in 1979, Mr. Aboutalebi had claimed to have represented the group holding the diplomats hostage. At that time, he had been travelling with Abbas Abdi, who had admitted to taking part in the seizure. While in Algeria, Mr. Aboutalebi had boasted of his support for terrorist actions, specifically student activities that had resulted in the seizure of the embassy.

23. She said that her Government had given careful thought to how the request fit with its responsibilities under the Headquarters Agreement. It was a very rare and exceptional case when a participant in the hostage crisis sought to come to the United States. The position of her Government not to grant visas to participants in the crisis was not new. She assured the Committee that the United States had given the matter the most prompt and careful consideration at the highest levels in order to make a timely decision. Her Government had raised its concerns with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran some time previously and made its views clear in the hope of a quiet resolution. In past cases, the United States had advised the Secretariat at high levels that it found the presence of such individuals in the United States to be intolerable. It had done so in the case at issue. Her Government found it intolerable that persons involved in depriving United States diplomats of diplomatic protection should themselves be cloaked with that protection. The United States did not consider its position to be a violation of the Headquarters Agreement, she said, assuring the Committee that the host country had taken, and would continue to take, its obligations under the Agreement seriously. She reiterated that the current situation was exceptional in that it concerned a unique and painful event in the history of her country.

24. The representative of the Russian Federation said that questions of who was or was not a terrorist should not be addressed in the Committee and that the issue at hand was respect for the Headquarters Agreement. He recalled that the provisions of the Agreement on the issuance of visas and support to delegations of a Member State should be implemented irrespective of the relations between the Government concerned and the host country.

25. He expressed concern that there might be cases of insufficient respect for the Headquarters Agreement that could present difficulties for the working of the United Nations. The refusal to issue a visa to the new Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran was a serious cause of concern, which his Government had taken account of because it had recently encountered difficulties in the issuance of visas to Russian officials who were to attend events at the United Nations. He pointed out, however, that, to date, the Russian Federation had been able to resolve such issues with the host country bilaterally.

26. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran said that he did not wish to enter into the political disputes of his country and the United States during the past 30 years. He pointed out that the Iranian people had bitter memories of those disputes and that the current meeting was not the appropriate forum to address or pass judgement on them.

27. He expressed the view that the explanation offered by the representative of the host country could not justify the denial of a visa to a designated permanent representative, stressing that denying a visa based on speculation and internal politics was unacceptable. He had carefully reviewed the Committee's previous reports and there had been promises that the host country authorities were working

on visa issues, but no specific improvement had been made. He highlighted that, at the 246th meeting of the Committee, in 2010, the representative of the host country had expressed concern about delays in issuing visas and had stated that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security were discussing how to avoid future delays.

28. He stressed that Member States needed to consider the item extremely seriously in order to save the intergovernmental nature of the Organization, composed of sovereign Member States. His delegation would follow the recent case and other visa issues with Committee members until it saw positive results achieved. It was the first time that the host country authorities had denied a visa to a designated ambassador of a Member State, he said, stressing that the decision had been based on pure speculation. He concluded by thanking those delegations that had made statements supporting the principle of international law and the authority of the Headquarters Agreement.

29. The Chair said that the Committee would continue to address the extremely serious issue of entry visas, which was at the heart of its deliberations. He once again appealed to the host country to streamline, to the extent possible, its procedure for issuing entry visas for diplomats. He referred to the Headquarters Agreement, highlighting that the provisions were known. He said that, given the sensitivity of the issue at hand, the Committee would continue to consider it and endeavour to facilitate a resolution of any difficulties that might arise in that regard with the host country and the interested delegation. He expressed thanks to all who had participated and concluded that the Committee should remain seized of the issue.

30. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic stressed the need to renew visas to diplomats, their dependants and those working in the missions. He noted that the renewal of single-entry visas, valid for six months, of officials in the Syrian delegation sometimes took up to four or even five months, emphasizing the difficulties that arose from such a situation. He expressed his delegation's support for the request that an entry visa be issued to the designated Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for the Headquarters Agreement to be respected.

## **B. Question of privileges and immunities<sup>1</sup>**

31. At the 268th meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation said that, in cases of traffic incidents involving members of his Permanent Mission, local insurance companies had been seeking to solve the issues raised by launching legal proceedings. That practice, which sometimes occurred years after the accident in question, presented difficulties to his Mission's operations, in particular in the light of the fact that members of the Mission who might have been involved in the accident might have since been transferred elsewhere. He noted that it was often not necessary for individuals to appear in court, suggesting that it might be appropriate to develop alternative procedures for their participation, including written statements that could be made without prejudice to their privileges and immunities.

32. The representative of the host country noted that traffic accidents involving members of permanent missions who had been issued a driver's license by the United States Department of State often presented complex problems. His

delegation addressed such situations on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the issues raised were resolved, including the important issue of immunity. The practice would continue.

**C. Host country activities: activities to assist members of the United Nations community<sup>1</sup>**

33. At the 265th meeting, the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic expressed thanks to the host country for its attempts to find a bank that would open an account for his Permanent Mission, voicing the hope that a solution would be found shortly.

34. The representative of the host country, acknowledging those thanks, expressed the hope that the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic and the Committee recognized the host country's concern over the issue. She said that she recognized the frustration and inconvenience that many missions had experienced. As she had stated before, the host country had been working at the very highest levels of its Government to tackle the issues in an effort to find a solution. Her Mission would continue to be in touch with individual missions on the issue. The host country had been extremely proactive in contacting permanent missions individually on their issues. She requested Committee members and other Member States to reach out to her Mission when there was a banking issue so that the host country might deal with it promptly.

35. At the 266th meeting, the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic said that a swift solution to the banking issue was needed, taking into account the various difficulties that his delegation had referred to in many meetings of the Committee over the past two years with regard to opening an account.

36. At the 267th meeting, the observer for the Sudan said that he had requested that an item entitled "Closure of banking accounts" should be included on the agenda.

37. The Chair noted that the terms of reference of the Committee had been determined by the General Assembly in its resolution 2819 (XXVI) and that in May 1992 the Committee had adopted, and in March 1994 slightly modified, a detailed list of topics for its consideration, which was set out in the annex to its annual report. The Committee was bound by that list. The titles were very broad and might cover many items. The item "Host country activities: activities to assist members of the United Nations community" included banking issues.

38. The observer for the Sudan said that his delegation had been suffering from the closure of bank accounts for the past three years. His Mission had no bank account, was forced to receive funds from Khartoum via diplomatic bag and was unable to function. It had continued to engage the host country bilaterally and appreciated the efforts of the Mission of the host country. His delegation had also raised the issue with the Committee previously and was working with the United Nations Federal Credit Union to open an account. He requested an update on the efforts of the host country to resolve the matter and asked whether only the United Nations Federal Credit Union would be offered or whether alternatives would be available.

39. The Chair said that he had been involved with the issue on behalf of the Committee. He had engaged with the Secretariat, the host country and the relevant

permanent missions, when requested, to resolve what he fully understood were difficult and important issues for a number of permanent missions. He understood that progress had been made in the past few months.

40. The representative of the host country said that she was aware that the banking issue was a continuing and frustrating situation. She stated, as she had before, that her Government had no authority to direct any financial institution to accept any client, including diplomatic missions and diplomats, but that it continued to assist and work with missions facing challenges in obtaining banking services. At the beginning of 2014, the United States Mission had hosted a briefing session with several banks on best practices for personal and mission accounts as a way to assist in offering clarity as to what banks looked at specifically in terms of accounts. It had also hosted a briefing session on the United Nations Federal Credit Union as an option for missions and individuals in need of banking services and would continue to host informational briefings as appropriate. It would continue to engage with the larger community and work with banks on the issue to provide information.

41. She explained that, in large part owing to the efforts of the Committee, the Secretariat and the United States Mission, the United Nations Federal Credit Union had opened its membership to missions and their staff. As at 31 July 2014, 191 missions had banking services and only 2 did not. She referred to the statement by the representative of the Sudan that his Mission was in the process of obtaining an account with that institution and that another mission with a long-standing banking issue was also applying. Her Government was looking at the issue at the highest levels and the United States Mission had been speaking internally with the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury and others in an attempt to find a long-term solution. While she could not outline what those steps were or what went on in those conversations, the Mission was fully apprised of the issue. She requested that, in the meantime, any mission facing banking issues should continue to keep the Mission apprised so that it could see how it could assist.

42. The observer for the Sudan stated that his Mission was of the view that the host country had an obligation to find solutions and to create a conducive environment for the relationship between the United Nations and the host country. The statement that the United States Mission had no authority to direct financial institutions was not understandable. His delegation was awaiting the final acceptance of the United Nations Federal Credit Union, but the institution had limitations on its services. For example, it could not accept cash deposits or transfers to pay bills.

43. He said that the host country had a role to play. In Washington, D.C., when the Sudanese embassy had experienced a similar problem, the then Secretary of State had intervened and written to one of the banks, which had resulted in the embassy being able to open an account. When the Sudanese delegation had met the banks, they had informed him that they were working under instructions from the Government of the United States. The delegation should be provided with options regarding other banks in order to choose the best bank for the Mission. The delegation would be engaging with the host country and the United Nations Federal Credit Union to find a better and more permanent solution.

44. The Chair assured the observer for the Sudan that the Committee would continue its efforts until the issue was resolved and each and every delegation had a bank account.

45. At the 268th meeting, the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the efforts made by the host country to resolve the issue of bank accounts, which had resulted in a meeting in May 2014 between the United Nations Federal Credit Union and the delegations affected. His delegation had attended the meeting and submitted the requested information to that institution. Five months later, however, it was waiting for the administrative process to be completed so that the issue could be resolved. He expressed the hope that the host country could take the steps necessary to ensure that the administrative process would be completed so that an account could be opened with the United Nations Federal Credit Union.

46. The representative of the host country noted that the United Nations Federal Credit Union had begun to open accounts for the permanent missions affected. He would inquire with his Government to address any restrictions that might be preventing the Syrian Arab Republic from opening an account at that institution.

47. The Chair recognized the efforts made by the host country to help to resolve the issue and welcomed additional efforts that might be required to ensure a complete resolution.

48. The representative of Cuba highlighted an issue that had arisen with regard to her delegation's attempt to transfer funds into a United Nations account in the United States for payments relating to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Her delegation had been informed by the bank concerned that the funds had been blocked, claiming that Cuba had no licence from the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control to carry out the operation. Owing to current restrictions imposed by the host country, it had been impossible to make payments for the Review Conference. That situation violated the obligations of the host country under the Vienna Convention and the Headquarters Agreement. She condemned the action and called upon the host country to fulfil its obligations, which would, in turn, allow Cuba to fulfil its commitments.

49. The representative of the host country said that similar situations had arisen in the past with regard to transfers of funds to be used to fulfil the financial commitments of Member States to the budget of the United Nations. In such cases, the United States Mission had taken up the issues with the relevant banks and the offices of the Government of the United States that might have been involved in blocking the funds. His delegation had also cooperated with the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to address the situations, given the interest that the United Nations itself had in its Member States being able to fulfil their financial commitments to the Organization. His delegation would continue to address the issues as they arose, in consultation with the appropriate parties.

#### **D. Transportation: use of motor vehicles, parking and related matters<sup>1</sup>**

50. At the 268th meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation said that, the efforts made previously to tackle the issue of parking for permanent missions notwithstanding, the situation had not improved. Expenses associated with parking continued to rise and the situation affected the operations of missions. The parking spots reserved for missions were few and their use required special permission, which was difficult to obtain. Furthermore, where permission was not obtained, missions

received parking tickets. The difficulties associated with parking became particularly acute during the plenary session of the General Assembly.

51. He said that his delegation would like a new approach to be taken to the parking situation. For example, in Moscow, which was also a major metropolitan city, the policy had recently changed and all parking spots in the city centre required payment; however, cars with diplomatic license plates were allowed to park there without charge. That policy facilitated the work of the diplomatic missions, while also addressing the traffic concerns of a major city. He suggested that a similar policy could be adopted in New York.

52. The representative of the host country noted that, during the plenary session of the General Assembly, New York City became extremely congested. He expressed understanding of the difficulties caused to the work of the permanent missions as they sought to facilitate the transportation of members of their delegations within the city. The host country had previously addressed the matters on an individual basis, in order to alleviate particular problems as they arose. His delegation would continue to make all efforts necessary to facilitate the work of the missions in that regard.

#### **E. Other matters<sup>1</sup>**

53. At the 268th meeting, the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran recalled that his delegation had previously received electronic notifications about forthcoming meetings of the Committee and the possibility of inscribing items on the agenda for discussion. He suggested reverting to that practice.

54. The Chair noted that the practice of the Committee was to notify members electronically and that a notice was placed in the *Journal of the United Nations* for the attention of observers. That practice had been followed for the current meeting. The Committee would continue to make all efforts to facilitate the effective participation of its members and observers.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Recommendations and conclusions**

55. At its 269th meeting, on 4 November 2014, the Committee approved the following recommendations and conclusions:

(a) The Committee reaffirms the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations;

(b) Considering that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the delegations and missions accredited to the United Nations is in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, the Committee appreciates the efforts made by the host country to that end and anticipates that all issues raised at its meetings, including those referred to below, will be duly settled in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

(c) The Committee notes that the observance of privileges and immunities is an issue of great importance. The Committee emphasizes the need to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise in this regard for the normal functioning of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations. The Committee urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities. If violations occur, the Committee urges the host country to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

(d) Considering that the security of the missions accredited to the United Nations and the safety of their personnel are indispensable for their effective functioning, the Committee appreciates the efforts made by the host country to this end and anticipates that the host country will continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of the missions;

(e) The Committee notes that permanent missions continue to implement the Diplomatic Parking Programme and shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuously ensuring the proper implementation of the programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

(f) The Committee requests the host country to continue to bring to the attention of New York City officials reports about other problems experienced by permanent missions or their staff in order to improve the conditions for their functioning and to promote compliance with international norms concerning diplomatic privileges and immunities, and to continue to consult the Committee on those important issues;

(g) The Committee recalls that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI), the Committee shall consider and advise the host country on issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement;

(h) The Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Headquarters Agreement to enable travel to New York on official United Nations business, including to attend official United Nations meetings, and remains seized of the matter of the host country's failure to issue a visa to a designated permanent representative of a State Member of the United Nations, noting the position of the affected Member State, other Member States and the host country in this regard. The Committee also notes that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for the issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States, since this time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings; the Committee also anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts to facilitate the participation, including visa issuance, of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

(i) Concerning travel regulations issued by the host country with regard to personnel of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, the Committee urges the host country to remove the remaining travel restrictions and, in that regard, notes the positions of the affected Member States, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General, and of the host country;

(j) The Committee stresses the importance of permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat personnel meeting their financial obligations;

(k) The Committee expresses concern over the difficulties that continue to be experienced by some permanent missions in obtaining suitable banking services, which are having a deleterious effect on the ability of those missions to perform their functions, and welcomes the continuing efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for permanent missions with other financial institutions, taking note of General Assembly resolution 68/306 in this respect;

(l) The Committee welcomes the participation of States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Committee in its work. The Committee also welcomes the contribution of the Secretariat to its work and emphasizes its importance. The Committee is convinced that its important work has been strengthened by the cooperation of all concerned;

(m) The Committee wishes to reiterate its appreciation to the representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations in charge of host country affairs, to the Host Country Affairs Section of the United States Mission and the Office of Foreign Missions, as well as to those local entities, in particular the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, that participate in its meetings and contribute to its efforts to help to accommodate the needs, interests and requirements of the diplomatic community and to promote mutual understanding between the diplomatic community and the people of the City of New York.



## Annex I

### List of topics for consideration by the Committee

1. Question of the security of missions and the safety of their personnel.
2. Consideration of and recommendations on issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, including:
  - (a) Entry visas issued by the host country;
  - (b) Acceleration of immigration and Customs procedures;
  - (c) Exemption from taxes.
3. Responsibilities of permanent missions to the United Nations and their personnel, in particular the problem of claims of financial indebtedness and procedures to be followed with a view to resolving the issues relating thereto.
4. Housing for diplomatic personnel and for Secretariat staff.
5. Question of privileges and immunities:
  - (a) Comparative study of privileges and immunities;
  - (b) Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and other relevant instruments.
6. Host country activities: activities to assist members of the United Nations community.
7. Transportation: use of motor vehicles, parking and related matters.
8. Insurance, education and health.
9. Public relations of the United Nations community in the host city and the question of encouraging the mass media to publicize the functions and status of permanent missions to the United Nations.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

## Annex II

### List of documents

- [A/AC.154/405](#) Letter dated 27 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- [A/AC.154/406](#) Letter dated 30 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
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