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Statement Delivered by

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Thank you Madame Chairperson, and we look forward to working with you as you lead this important committee.

On behalf of the United States, I would also like to recognize the efforts of Under Secretary-General Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal and the Department of Public Information for their efforts to tell the story of the United Nations to the world effectively and efficiently. We welcome his briefing yesterday and support continued efforts to maintain a strategic focus and results-based orientation with respect to DPI’s important work.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined the freedom of expression as a right to be enjoyed by all persons, everywhere, and it also speaks of the free flow of information and ideas. The exchange of ideas and information is critical to innovation, which is a key ingredient of better-functioning organizations as well as democracies and ever-more prosperous societies. It is with this in mind that the committee comes together to review the important work of the Department.

The United States and other member-states have called on the United Nations to take the steps necessary to ensure that the organization is sustainable, effective, and credible, and we are heartened that DPI is continuing to support partnership, including with member-states, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations has co-hosted events with DPI in the past, to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade and to celebrate jazz as a language of peace. We look forward for future opportunities to work together.

Holocaust awareness and education remain a vital and relevant issue, both to the United States and to the entire world, and here I would like to call attention to DPI’s partnering with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to translate the museum’s film in nine languages and make the product available to educators and broadcasters around the world. Thanks to this initiative, the film has now been screened in 24 countries and broadcast on national television in Brazil and Zambia, and millions have seen what religious intolerance can lead to, and hopefully they will do their part to ensure that it never happens again anywhere.
Partnership, then, continues to offer a fertile avenue for the UN to pursue to accomplish its mission innovatively, without creating the need for additional resources.

Continued innovation in the realm of social media is commendable, as DPI needs to be active where the global conversation is taking place, and increasingly, that space is social media. Whether the subject is humanitarian aid, peacekeeping operations in places like the Central African Republic or South Sudan, or the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, more and more the global audience is moving to social media platforms, not only to hear from the UN, but also to be heard.

The United States supports the critical work of the Department of Public Information and we will continue to work with member-states to ensure that DPI carries out its mission effectively and sustainably.

Thank you.

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