Madam Chair,

At the outset, I would like to join the other speakers in thanking you for the successful outcome of the 35th session last year under your able leadership. I assure you and other members of the bureau of the Republic of Korea's full commitment and cooperation in making this 36th session of the Committee even more productive and efficient.

My delegation would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. We have carefully listened to his remarks, and thank him and the Department of Public Information for its work and comprehensive report. While the DPI's task to spread the values and activities of the United Nations to a global audience assumes a more central role than ever, the USG's recent visit to Korea has served a catalyst to further promote awareness of the activities of the UN in my country. As such, my Government hopes to continue to develop our cooperation with the DPI, building upon the progress achieved so far.
Madam Chair,

It is no surprise that in the Information Age, information plays a central role in our daily lives. Our knowledge-based society’s appetite for information sharing and its speedy dissemination is exponentially increasing. The United Nations should proactively adapt to such a dynamically changing landscape in order to remain relevant and responsive amid the challenges of the 21st century. In this regard, my delegation commends the DPI for making great strides so that the critical stories of the United Nations are heard through various means of communication, often under difficult resources constraints. I believe that these efforts allow for a more friendly and interactive environment and foundation to the UN.

My delegation also appreciates the DPI's efforts to take a strategic and innovative approach by using various social media networks in promoting the activities of the UN in the three main pillars of its mandate, as contained in the report entitled "Activities of the Department of Public Information." Also of note is the manner in which United Nations information centers (UNICs) continue to serve as dynamic platforms for garnering support for the work of the Organization on the national and regional levels. UNICs have partnered with governments, civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions to duly reflect the multifaceted efforts of the Organization.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the outreach activities of the DPI, my delegation attaches great importance to its role in enhancing understanding of the work of the UN. We also commend its role in facilitating an open exchange of ideas, information, and knowledge in support of the Organization’s driving goals. Through mutual sharing of ideas and goals, we can collectively generate momentum in a manner that is stronger than we could have individually. This allows us to give a voice to the voiceless, provide help to the needy, and find creative solutions for global challenges, both established and emerging. Indeed, as one African proverb goes, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” In this connection, we appreciate the efforts of the DPI to reach out to civil society and academic institutions with a view towards promoting two-way interaction between the UN and civil society and increasing their overall involvement in the activities of the Organization.

The United Nations Academic Impact initiative is a good example of how we can achieve this. The report of the DPI outlines not only the catalytic functions that the UNAI has undertaken to promote
academic activism for important areas of interest, but also highlights the concrete ways that these academic institutions are making a difference.

(A case in point is the international conference held in Korea last August on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development framework. UNAI Korea hosted this event, and supported students of member universities of the Academic Impact from all over the world. To inspire young minds is to truly plant seeds for future peace and prosperity.)

My delegation welcomes the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative, involving the global teaching, learning, and research community in projects and activities that support and further the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its Member States. Its range of activities and overall scope has certainly enriched the vast global landscape of ideas and academic activism. We should encourage academic institutions of the Member States to join the United Nations Academic Impact, to form national chapters, and to participate in their global and regional networks in order to help address the challenges and mandates of the UN, in compliance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/234. With a vibrant UNAI network in Korea, my delegation will continue to support UNAI initiatives and further contribute towards its future development.

Madam Chair,

Finally, I take this opportunity to assure you that my delegation is fully committed to the work of this Committee. We look forward to collaborating with all Member States during this session, and we will do our utmost to ensure a fruitful outcome.

Thank you.