Committee on Information  
Thirty-sixth Session  
Statement Delivered by Aviva Klompas  
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations  
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairwoman of the 36th session of the Committee on Information. My delegation would also like to extend its appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Launsky-Tieffenthal for his work on behalf of the United Nations system.

Madam Chair,

Abraham Lincoln once said, “The best way to predict your future is to create it.” The advent of new technologies has transformed the communications landscape and is allowing every one of us to shape the world in which we live.

If knowledge is the engine that drives success, then information is the fuel propelling us forward. Communication and social media outlets, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, are enabling individuals to communicate more freely and openly than ever before.

Israel applauds the Department of Public Information for embracing innovative tools and technologies in an effort to reach new global audiences, particularly young people.

Madam Chair,

Yesterday Israel commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is not enough to simply remember the past; we must learn its lessons so that evil may never again triumph over good. We must oppose prejudice, combat racism, and boldly take action when words will not suffice. If we cannot or will not do this, then the promise of ‘never again’ rings hollow.

These are the messages at the heart of the DPI’s Holocaust Outreach Program. Earlier this year, it paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust through its annual International Day of Commemoration. Israel commends the program for its excellent work and for continuously expanding its scope through UN Information Centers around the world.

These efforts grow ever more critical as time distances us from the Holocaust. A child born today is unlikely to meet a Holocaust survivor or hear a first-hand testimony.

Thus, the responsibility has fallen to each one of us to tell the victims’ stories and remind the world how evil can take root in the hearts of ordinary people. It has been almost 70 years since the end of the Holocaust and the world is still plagued by prejudice and - even
as we speak - anti-Semitism is being sponsored and spread by governments, teachers, and religious leaders.

In light of these daunting challenges, Israel would like to express its deep appreciation to the DPI for its tireless efforts carrying the torch of Holocaust remembrance and education. My Mission is confident that the UN Holocaust Outreach Program will continue to be appropriately resourced so that it can teach future generations the consequences of hatred.

Madam Chair,

The Holocaust taught us that we must speak out when we see injustice. Israel is deeply concerned about the DPI’s “Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine”.

The real question is why this institution continues to fund a programme that targets one and only one member state. It is just one more example of the disproportionate attention given to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the United Nations.

Another example can be seen in the UN Information System on the Question of Palestine or UNISPAL. While it is not an organ of the DPI, this body has abused the UN’s social media platforms by disseminating materials that promote hatred and foster incitement against Israel. It is unacceptable that inflammatory anti-Israel messages continue to be produced under the banner of the United Nations.

It seems to me that all those who work behind the scenes and behind the computer screens, should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the UN’s values of impartiality and neutrality.

Madam Chair,

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must work passionately and tirelessly to bridge the gulf between our scientific progress and our moral progress.”

Technology has revolutionized communications. The world has gotten smaller as the role of information and communication technologies has grown larger. Let us harness these tools for the common good of all so that we can forge a more vibrant and prosperous future for everyone.

Thank you, Madam Chair.