Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to join the other speakers in congratulating you on your election as the chairman of the Committee on Information. I am confident that your able leadership will make the 37th session of the Committee even more successful. My delegation would also like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Cristina Gallach upon her taking office as a new Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. I believe that her vision and experiences will be a catalyst to further promote public awareness of the activities of the UN worldwide. In addition, I would like to appreciate the DPI for its excellent work, particularly for its efforts to reflect on the record of work of the United Nations for the past 70 years and the imminent challenges on our path to a brighter future by organizing various activities and events.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, is pursuing an ambitious vision for a more prosperous and sustainable world. Indeed, a world where everyone can enjoy well-being and happiness without the threats of war, poverty and disease, climate change, and human rights violations.
This ambitious vision can only be fully realized if the Organization can garner as wide and robust support from the public as possible by telling our stories of achieving development, making peace, and enhancing human rights to the people at the local, regional, and global levels.

In this regard, the worldwide network of the 63 United Nations Information Centers plays a vital role in mobilizing support for the work of the UN; now more than ever. It is noteworthy that the UN Information Centers serve as an important link between policy and public in facilitating the spread of knowledge relating to the noble work of the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea proposes to host the 64th UNIC in Korea. We believe that the UNIC in Korea will elevate the Korean people’s awareness of UN-related issues, considering Korea’s special relationship with the United Nations, and encourage their active engagement in, and stronger support for, the Organization and its activities.

Since its foundation in 1948, the Republic of Korea has built a special relationship with the United Nations. With the assistance of the UN, Korea has transformed from an aid recipient to a full-fledged donor country within a generation.

Now, the Republic of Korea is committed to scaling up our contribution to the international community, in particular, with a view toward paying back the Organization in kind for coming to the Korean people’s aid during its most difficult time.

To this end, it is essential to increase the awareness among the Korean people of the purpose and activities of the United Nations. The UNIC in Korea can deliver UN messages, including its priorities and challenges, to the Korean people most effectively, as information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations. It will also inspire a greater sense
of responsibility in the Korean people to support UN values and activities, paving the way for the Korean Government to make stronger commitments to the UN moving forward.

The UNIC in Korea can also be an effective vehicle to share Korea’s development experiences with the developing world, taking advantage of the advanced information and communications technology. It can also create synergy by carrying out specially designed programs in cooperation with other UN agencies located in Korea and working closely with UNICs in other countries.

Establishing a UNIC in Korea will also serve to promote a greater flow of information related to the UN into the Asian region. Currently, the number of UNICs in the region is underrepresented compared to other regions.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to highlight that, taking into account the ongoing budgetary constraints the UN faces, the Government of the Republic of Korea is offering rent/maintenance-free premises in hosting the proposed Centre, and is also willing to cover other set-up, operational, and local staff expenses.

I trust that the proposal of the Republic of Korea to host a UNIC be duly reflected on the draft resolution of the 37th Session of the Committee on Information.

I feel confident that the UNIC in Korea can help the COI, and the UN more largely, realize its mandates and goals, and strengthen the special relationship between the UN and the Korean people.

Thank you. /END