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Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before the Committee on Information

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In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Committee on Information (COI). My congratulation also goes to the other members of the bureau of the COI. I would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Cristina Gallach on her appointment as the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, and express my appreciation for her comprehensive presentation on the activities and strategies of the Department of Public Information (DPI). I thank Mr. Maher Nasser who guided ably and efficiently the DPI during his term as acting Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information.

I align myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran underscores the importance of the Committee on Information as well as the role of the Department of Public Information (DPI) as the voice of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports free and unbiased flow of information. We believe that in this process cultural diversity should be respected, and sacrilege, blasphemy and other acts that create hatred and resentment in the mind of people must be avoided. Dissemination of Information should aims to inform the people of the facts and realities in the world.

We continue to underscore the importance of the areas of common interest to the international community including those that enable nations to better understand each other. Focusing on such areas allow the United Nations to make progress towards fulfilling its main goals, including the maintenance of international peace and security. In the light of the urgency of the fight against violent extremism, the promotion of moderation and tolerance within and among nations
is one of these important areas. Thus, the dissemination of information about measures and initiatives adopted by the UN Organs and its Member States in this respect should highly figure on the agenda of the DPI. The dialogue among civilizations and cultures, as well as, the initiative of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2013 titled: “a world against violence and violent extremism” are among those initiatives, which can increase better understanding among peoples and contribute to creating friendship and stronger ties among them.

Another area that we encourage the UN to focus on is the question of Palestine which is at the heart of the Middle East larger problems. As a fair and just solution for this question will help overall improvement in the situation of the Middle East, we emphasize the important responsibility of the United Nations in raising international awareness regarding the question of Palestine, with a view to assisting the peoples all over the world to be informed of the realities on the ground, and of the plight of the Palestinian people living under occupation, blockade and enduring frequent aggressions and invasions by the occupying power.

Mr. Chairman,
We believe that the United Nations Information Centers (UNICs), particularly in the developing countries, have an important role in disseminating the messages of the United Nations as well as enhancing its public image. Indeed, UNICs are a vital source of information for local communities and key contributors to “the public awareness raising process” regarding the internationally agreed goals contained in the General Assembly’s resolutions. Therefore, strengthening their capacity by, inter alia, allocating adequate financial resources is a necessity to enable them to effectively fulfill their responsibilities.

The Islamic republic of Iran underlines the responsibility of the Secretariat of the United Nations in mainstreaming multilingualism into all its communication and information activities. We believe that information should be disseminated, not only in the official languages of the UN, but also in other languages which are widely regarded as the roots of great cultures and civilizations, including the Persian language, that are conveyors of rich literatures and sources of understanding and solidarity among several nations in many regions,

Mr. Chairman,
We commend the DPI for implementation of the Reham Al-Fraa Memorial Journalists’ Fellowship Program for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries as mandated by the General Assembly. We urge the Department to allocate adequate resources to this program.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran also appreciates the Department of Public Information for its special information program on the question of Palestine including the training program for Palestinian journalists.

Thank you