

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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البعثة الدائمة
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
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نيويورك

Statement by

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to the United Nations

before

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"Questions Relating to Information"

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure to express our appreciation to the Assistant-Secretary-General for Public Information and his colleagues for the distinguished efforts made to spread the noble message of the United Nations in serving peace, security and stability goals for all humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the beginning of the New Millennium, the world has become increasingly aware of the important and central role played by digital technology and globalization in disseminating information and knowledge, especially through internet and satellite channels, and in bringing peoples of different cultures closer and directing human, economic and political interest and multi-faceted activities of many peoples in the world.

The impact of these astonishing developments, which gradually occurred during the last two decades, was not only reflected in the positive development of international relations but also in the new created problems, most notably the widening of the economic and social gap between the countries of the North and the South, and the marginalization of poor countries which are affected by poverty, epidemics, unemployment, environmental degradation, and ethnic and civil conflicts, which all require the international community to agree on establishing a fair, effective and comprehensive international system for information, communications and digital technology, through which we can organize, rationalize and develop the current arrangements and work of media and digital information technologies with a view to enhancing access to these technologies and ensuring a wider, balanced and free flow of information. This will help in improving coordination, understanding and harmony among peoples and promoting principles of tolerance, non-discrimination, and mutual respect, which will have a positive impact on the issues of international peace and security and global stability as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

My country is fully convinced that the new economic global order and the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the Millennium Summit require the bridging of the current gap in the digital divide between advanced and developing countries, which may be achieved by providing developing countries with the necessary financial, scientific and technological resources in order to enable them to gain access to advanced information and communication technologies which suit their national needs. On the other hand, necessary reforms should be undertaken in the infrastructures and systems of information, and practical training programmes should be provided to the managerial personnel in public and private sectors which are responsible for promoting public outreach programs in the areas of education, health, social and environment awareness, and which, if done, would significantly reduce the suffering of people and improve their humanitarian conditions particularly in the Least Developed Countries. It will further result in improving public awareness especially in the areas of production, development and environment protection, diversifying their income sources and creating decent living conditions and thus reduce mortalities and chronic and infectious diseases and other harmful elements, which are detrimental to the well-being of people and their security and stability.

In this context, we also express our concern regarding the ongoing attempts of the media of some countries to homogenize and deliberately ignore the concerns and issues of the Third World, including the continuing attempts to distort the reality and the historical, cultural and religious facts of some peoples, especially Moslems. Hence, we request the concerned authorities in these countries to shoulder their responsibilities in order to prevent future occurrences of such irresponsible practices which are fuelled by hatred, extremism, racial discrimination and incitement, and which seriously threaten the security and stability of these countries. Therefore, we call for enacting an international code of ethics for information, which would provide free and transparent flow of information, and which would ensure mutual respect for the religious beliefs and cultural and social heritage of peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation, which has been closely following up the efforts of the Department of Public Information especially in areas of availability of documentation and dissemination of information through the Internet, calls for improving the infrastructure of this Department and strengthening skills of its personnel, especially in the Arabic Section and in regional offices. We also call for the strengthening of the Arabic language in all documents including conventions and treaties, press releases, radio and television broadcasting, in the library and in all other information activities carried out by this international organization, based on the principle of equality and transparency among the six official languages of the UN and as stated in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. We also emphasize that the Secretariat publications must contain comprehensive, objective and fair information on all items on the Organization's agenda in accordance with the principles of integrity, accuracy and independence and in order to enhance the credibility of the organization.

Finally, we affirm the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Department of Public Information and the programs and agencies of the United Nations, and, in this context, we call for strengthening the role of this Department, particularly, in promoting dialogue among civilizations, enhancing the culture of peace, and strengthening peacekeeping efforts of the UN throughout the world. The resources and abilities of this Department should also be harnessed in order to enable it to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, which call for publicizing the merits and developments of the Palestinian Question and of the Situation in the Middle East, particularly facts relating to the sufferings of the Palestinian People caused by Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and which led to the killing and injury of thousands of innocent people, demolition of their homes and their starvation, constituting one of the worst violations of the principles of human rights and of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

Thank you Mr. Chairman