

Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

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Check Against Delivery

Statement by
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Deputy Permanent Representative

Committee on Information
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 33rd session of the Committee on Information, and wish you much success in guiding our work.

My delegation would also like to extend our appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Akasaka for his statement and his work on behalf of the United Nations system. We welcome the reports of the Secretary-General, entitled "Activities of the Department of Public Information," which highlight key advancements made by the DPI to promote the work of the United Nations around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The advent of new technologies has transformed the communications landscape, facilitating the rapid dissemination of information. We continue to witness how new tools and platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, are empowering individuals to communicate more freely and openly than ever before.

Israel welcomes the DPI's flexible approach in embracing new communications tools and technologies to reach new global audiences, particularly young people. My delegation also applauds the DPI's constructive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders — and its continuing efforts to advance innovative partnerships and programs.

One such program is the United Nations Academic Impact, a unique initiative that creates partnerships with more than 600 institutions of higher learning in nearly one-hundred countries to support core principles of the United Nations. Hadassah College in Jerusalem serves as a hub for this initiative's activities that promote access to higher education.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel is honored to contribute to thematic DPI functions that seek to inform, educate, and inspire, such as the commemoration of the third annual World Autism Awareness Day, which took place during the first week of this month.

In partnership with DPI, Israel's Mission hosted a special evening in observance of this day, which included a panel discussion and a screening of "Yellow Peppers," an Israeli television series that premiered this year. Depicting the life of an Israeli family with an autistic child, this popular show has brought significant attention to the issue of Autism to Israeli society.

Israel was proud to bring this touching and important series to the halls of the UN, marking the third year in a row in which my delegation has hosted an event at the United Nations to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day.

Mr. Chairman,

This year the DPI hosted the sixth Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The observance of this day not only honors the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust, it also helps the United Nations to transmit critical lessons about the dangers of hate, racism, and xenophobia in all of their forms.

Israel is encouraged by the wide range of work that the Holocaust Outreach Program continues to perform.

With the support of this program, there has been an expansion of the scope of remembrance activities that are carried out in UN Information Centers around the world – and significant growth in the audiences that are reached. This year the outreach program focused on the theme of Jewish women in the Holocaust, providing field offices with copies of the film, "Daring to Resist" and an accompanying educational program. Educational programs like this encourage students to make essential links between the history of the Holocaust and the need to respect human rights in their own communities today.

Such efforts become even more critical as time distances us from the horrors of the Holocaust. A child born today will likely not be able to meet a Holocaust survivor or hear the first-hand the stories of those who survived during the darkest hours of humanity.

We also continue witness a disturbing proliferation of individuals and organizations that deny the Holocaust – a group that even includes the leader of a national government. The DPI can play a critical role in pushing back against these dangerous tides.

In light of these challenges, Israel would like to express its deep appreciation to the DPI for its ongoing work related to Holocaust remembrance and education. My Mission remains confident that the United Nations Holocaust Outreach Program will continue to enjoy appropriate resources that would enable it to enhance the scope of its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel remains concerned about the Palestinian Information Program. Based upon an anti-Israel General Assembly resolution that focuses on one specific conflict, this information program has offered a narrative of our region that is biased and misleading since its inception.

Given the one-sided mandate that established this program, Israeli government officials will continue to be obliged not to attend or participate in these seminars until a more even-handed approach is adopted.

I wish to reiterate that Israel would be willing to engage in the formulation of a more constructive and balanced resolution to mandate future activities. Such a resolution must be aimed at the promotion of peace education, tolerance, mutual understanding, and the prevention of incitement.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel is proud to have served as a member of the Committee on Information for a number of years and looks forward to participating in this year's discussion. We remain committed to the productive and cooperative work of the DPI and a positive outcome to our deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.