

Islamic Republic of
I R A N
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by
Mr. Ali Nasimfar
The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the Sixth Committee
73th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On Agenda item 167:
"Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country"
New York, 2 November 2018

In the name of God, the most Compassionate the most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation thanks the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for presenting the report of the Committee. We took note of the report of the Committee contained in document A/73/26, in particular its recommendations and conclusions. My delegation also thanks the Secretariat of the Committee for their invaluable support.

Although our deliberations in the Host Committee in some cases has produced favorable results, there are still several longstanding unresolved cases before the Committee, including travel restrictions, visa restrictions, bank accounts and several other issues. This makes it clear that the mandate and power of the Committee does not match with its objectives. Furthermore, the working methods of the Host Committee needs to be improved. We note with concern that while all Member-States have a great interest in the work of the Committee, only a small portion of the current membership are members of the Committee. There is no meaningful interaction between Committee and observer states in terms of negotiation and preparation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee. The call of GA to enhance the work of the Committee and its effectiveness, still have not been taken into account seriously. However, we continue to believe that the Committee on relation with the Host Country enjoys certain potentials which could be constructively utilized to address the issues referred to it.

The Resolution 2819, while establishing the Committee in 1971, has mandated the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Host Committee issues of mutual concerns relating to the

implementation of the Headquarter Agreement and the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the UN. We firmly believe that the Secretary-General is a party to the Headquarter Agreement and should ensure that its provisions are implemented continuously and in full. However, this has not been the case in recent years and we urge the Secretariat to consider reviving this practice. We would welcome presentation of regular reports by the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of the Headquarter Agreement to the Sixth Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Rules governing privileges and immunities of the UN are politically neutral and shall not be effected by the political considerations or bilateral issues arising between Host country and other countries. Even the privileges and immunities of those representatives which their government have not been recognized by the Host country have been guaranteed. In fact, the criteria of reciprocity have been set aside to ensure the proper function of the UN on the basis of principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.

It is also has been highlighted in the GA resolutions that, “the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, cannot be subject to any restrictions arising from the bilateral relations of the Host Country”. Thus It is commonly accepted that any measure or policy which endanger maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations shall be rejected and stopped. One example of this situation is related to the type of the visas issued by the Host Country for certain representatives as well as staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities. There is no doubt that issuing single entry visas hinders well-functioning of the Missions. Due to such a discriminatory procedure, in many cases our colleagues have missed the opportunity to be with their loved ones at the most important and critical moments of their life, whether it be a wedding or a funeral. Single entry visas for resident diplomats shall be readjusted in a way that allow representatives to leave the US and return back immediately.

Finally, my delegation once again wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate its concern and objection on application of discriminatory Secondary Screening procedures on diplomats from certain nationalities in airports during the journey to and from New York which undermine the respect and dignity of state representatives and diplomatic community. We support the recommendation of the Host Committee which urges the host country to take appropriate action, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities. We also reiterate the recommendation of the Host Committee which urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as the training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.