

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Fourth Committee
Agenda Item: 54
Questions Relating to Information**

**India Statement
By Mr. Deepak Misra, Minister**

18 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to welcome the assumption of charge by Under Secretary-General for Global Communications, Ms. Melissa Fleming and would like to thank her for the detailed report on the activities of the Department of Global Communications.

Mr. Chairman,

2. For the citizens of the world, the United Nations signifies humanity's shared endeavor to address common global challenges and to seek sustainable peace and prosperity for all. UNGA resolution 13(1), adopted at its first session on February 1, 1946 clearly states that "The United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the people of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities".

3. Over the years, the DGC has made laudable efforts to broadcast the UN's efforts to people around the world through its numerous outreach programmes. The Programme of Work of the DGC is a clear reflection of the above purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We firmly support the endeavours of the DGC to promote the UN's work on the most important issues and challenges facing us today. These include the significance of achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development; importance of climate action; counter-terrorism; migration; from peacekeeping to water management, to list a few.

Mr. Chairman,

5. In the fourth year since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is inspiring to note the measures adopted by DGC to raise the general perception about the inter-linkages of the SDGs. The extensive activities undertaken by UN Information Centers around the world in this direction are indeed laudable. We welcome the work of the Department to underscore progress as well as the need to put in further efforts to accelerate implementation of Paris Agreement on climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We also note the far-reaching efforts of the DGC, in partnership with other Departments to highlight the Peacekeeping operations all over the world. The launch in January 2018 of a multimedia multilingual campaign 'Service and Sacrifice' for building greater public recognition of individual service and sacrifice of peacekeepers from troop and police-contributing countries is noteworthy.

7. While we appreciate DGC's collaboration with Department of Peacekeeping Operations in maintaining the peacekeeping website in all six official languages, we urge the DGC to add the languages of the major Troop Contributing Countries in the website to further broaden the outreach of this information. India supports DGC's efforts to promote greater awareness and collaboration on jointly fighting the menace of terrorism.

8. We welcome the extensive work done by the News and Media Division and the Outreach Division of the DGC. In this context, India continues its

support to the UN Academic Impact Initiative and it is heartening to note the increasing trend of membership of institutions from South Asia.

9. It is Inspiring to note that there has been an expansion in the UN guided tours in multiple languages. The tour has been very popular with Indian tourists to New York and as pointed out by our delegation last year, a guided tour in Hindi can make the UN Tour an even more enriching experience for Indian tourists.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Multilingualism promotes greater international understanding by recognizing the significance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their own language, thus drawing the ideals and shared objectives closer to the people. The United Nations has always stressed upon genuine multilingualism to promote and strengthen multilateral engagement on global issues. It was in this spirit that the DGC was tasked to work on enhancing the UN's outreach in a range of languages, in addition to the official languages recognized by the UN.

11. In recent times, declining financial resources have presented a serious constraint on the ability of the DGC to carry out its mandated tasks especially in non-official languages. DGC, therefore, needs to look at innovative ways to raise resources beyond the regular budgetary allocations, including through voluntary contributions to expand its global outreach, especially in the widely-spoken nonofficial languages. However, totally eliminating allocations provided for such efforts in the past is not helpful.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In conclusion, India appreciates DGC's invaluable contribution and will continue to extend support to the Department's activities and initiatives.

Thank You