



**United Nations**

# **Report of the Committee on Information**

**Forty-third session  
(26 April–7 May 2021)**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## Chapter I

### Introduction

1. In its resolution [34/182](#), the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution [33/115](#) C, which would henceforth be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution [34/182](#), the Assembly requested the Committee:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better-balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

The Assembly also requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to seventy-fifth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted resolutions by consensus. At its seventy-fifth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted by consensus resolutions [75/101](#) A and B.

3. Currently, the Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Congo
Angola	Costa Rica
Antigua and Barbuda	Côte d'Ivoire
Argentina	Croatia
Armenia	Cuba
Austria	Cyprus
Azerbaijan	Czechia
Bangladesh	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Belarus	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Belgium	Denmark
Belize	Dominican Republic
Benin	Ecuador
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Egypt
Brazil	El Salvador
Bulgaria	Ethiopia
Burkina Faso	Finland
Burundi	France
Cabo Verde	Gabon
Chile	Georgia
China	Germany
Colombia	Ghana

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Greece	Poland
Guatemala	Portugal
Guinea	Qatar
Guyana	Republic of Korea
Honduras	Republic of Moldova
Hungary	Romania
Iceland	Russian Federation
India	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Indonesia	Saudi Arabia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Senegal
Iraq	Sierra Leone
Ireland	Singapore
Israel	Slovakia
Italy	Solomon Islands
Jamaica	Somalia
Japan	South Africa
Jordan	Spain
Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka
Kenya	Sudan
Lebanon	Suriname
Liberia	Switzerland
Libya	Syrian Arab Republic
Luxembourg	Thailand
Madagascar	Togo
Malta	Trinidad and Tobago
Mexico	Tunisia
Monaco	Turkey
Mongolia	Ukraine
Morocco	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mozambique	United Republic of Tanzania
Nepal	United States of America
Netherlands	Uruguay
Niger	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Nigeria	Viet Nam
Oman	Yemen
Pakistan	Zambia
Paraguay	Zimbabwe
Peru	
Philippines	

## Chapter II

### Organizational questions

#### A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the forty-third session of the Committee on Information was held virtually on 26 April 2021. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Omar Hilale (Morocco).

#### B. Elections

5. The Committee held elections for a new Bureau for a two-year term. Upon his nomination by the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean States, Christian Espinosa (Ecuador) was elected Chair, by acclamation. Upon their nomination by the representatives of the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States, Angelito Nayan (Philippines) and Darren Camilleri (Malta), respectively, were elected Vice-Chairs, by acclamation. Mr. Camilleri was also elected Rapporteur, by acclamation. The Committee deferred the election of two other Vice-Chairs pending consultations within, and nomination by, the African States and the Eastern European States. The officers of the Committee for the period 2021–2023 are as follows:

*Chair:*

Christian Espinosa (Ecuador)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Darren Camilleri (Malta)

Angelito Nayan (Philippines)

*Rapporteur:*

Darren Camilleri (Malta)

#### C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

6. At its organizational meeting, on 26 April 2021, the Committee adopted the agenda and programme of work ([A/AC.198/2021/1](#)), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
  4. Admission of new members.
  5. Statement by the Chair.
  6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications.
  7. General debate.
  8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
  9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
  10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.
7. The Committee held its general debate on 26 and 27 April. On 26 April, in the afternoon, the Department of Global Communications, led by the Under-Secretary-



General for Global Communications, held an informal interactive dialogue with Member States.

8. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications: strategic communications services ([A/AC.198/2021/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications: news services ([A/AC.198/2021/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications: outreach and knowledge services ([A/AC.198/2021/4](#)).

#### **D. Admission of new members**

9. Latvia joined the Committee as a member during the forty-third session.

#### **E. Observers**

10. The State of Palestine, Arab States (League of), the European Union and the International Organization of la Francophonie participated in the session as observers.

## Chapter III

### General debate

11. Statements in the general debate were provided by the representatives of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Spanish at the United Nations), Cabo Verde (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), the Philippines, Costa Rica, Japan, India, Portugal, Pakistan, Jamaica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Brazil, Israel, Egypt, Malta, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cuba, Latvia, Ukraine, Morocco, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, El Salvador, Argentina, Ecuador, Angola, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Spain, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire (also on behalf of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors), Lebanon, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

12. The general debate commenced after a statement by the Chair of the Committee. He noted that, as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to affect people around the world, humanity stood at a critical juncture in history. He stated that the need for the United Nations to provide reliable, neutral and objective information had become even more vital to counter the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation. He praised the "Verified" campaign of the Department of Global Communications as an important initiative to tackle such dangers in a timely manner. The Chair acknowledged the efforts made by the Department to guarantee that its outputs and services were multilingual, while also pointing out that more could be done in that regard.

13. The Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications also made a statement, outlining the various activities and initiatives that the Department had conducted. She noted that the "infodemic" had become an immediate test case for the global communications strategy that the Department was starting to roll out and which represented an approach that could be applied to other issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, women and peace and security, and climate change.

14. In addressing the substantive issues before the Committee, many representatives, including those representing large groups, expressed concerns about the "infodemic", including the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many delegations noted that the pandemic had highlighted the need for United Nations communications to be more rapid, strategic and comprehensive. Speakers commended the Department for its efforts in tackling that problem by disseminating factual, timely and science-based information using modern and traditional media in the six official languages. Many speakers specifically noted with appreciation, and expressed support for, the "Verified" initiative led by the Department to combat misinformation and disinformation. Speakers especially commended the Department for its implementation of the "Only Together" and "Pledge to Pause" campaigns. Many speakers welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [75/267](#), by which it had proclaimed 24 to 31 October of each year the Global Media and Information Literacy Week, which many noted would help to tackle that problem.

15. While many speakers commended the Department for its use of social media and digital campaigns to disseminate the work of the United Nations, speakers also touched upon the growing issue of the digital divide within and between countries, which many noted had widened during the pandemic. Many delegates encouraged the Organization to take steps to secure greater Internet connectivity. In addition, several speakers urged the Department to continue to allocate resources to traditional media, such as print, television and radio, on which a considerable portion of the global

population still relied. Speakers highlighted the need for more inclusive forms of media, such as closed-captioned videos and sign-language interpreters, to ensure that everyone, including vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities, had access to information distributed by the Organization.

16. Numerous delegates noted with concern the rise of hate speech over the past year, especially that related to racism, religious persecution and xenophobia. Many delegates condemned the proliferation of hate speech and praised the “Verified” initiative for leading the way with science-based and fact-based information to combat it. In that context, several delegates also expressed concerns about restricting freedom of expression. Several speakers touched upon the observance of World Press Freedom Day and highlighted the need to protect journalists and ensure public access to information, while one delegation stressed the importance of recognizing the contributions of journalists and ensuring their safety.

17. Many representatives, including those representing large groups, stressed the importance of multilingualism and language parity, not only to meet the mandates of the Department but also to advance the values of the United Nations, including inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. The use of the six official languages must be balanced to reflect diversity and effectively promote the Organization to a global audience. Several speakers highlighted the need to produce original content in the six official languages, rather than translating from one language into another. One speaker reiterated that the Department must move away from the culture of translation and move towards a true multilingual culture. Several delegations also noted the prominent growth of the Spanish language audience and asked the Department to take that factor into consideration when allocating resources. While some speakers noted the limitations placed on the Department’s ability to accomplish its mandated tasks, especially in the use of non-official languages, they urged it to explore innovative financing options and voluntary contributions.

18. Numerous representatives thanked the Department for ensuring business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic and for implementing the global communications strategy, the first such strategy for the Organization. One delegation noted that the strategy would be a useful framework to address various issues that the world currently faced. Several delegations commended the multilingual and multimedia strategic communication policy of the Department to disseminate information and raise awareness about various issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change. Some speakers commended the Department on its special information programme on the question of Palestine, although one delegation expressed the view that it offered a biased and misleading representation of the situation. Some delegates noted with appreciation the call by the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire to focus on the fight against the pandemic.

19. Recognition and praise for the United Nations information centres were also a consistent theme. Many delegates praised the work of the centres for their role in promoting the mandates of the United Nations and garnering support for the work of the Organization through the use of official and non-official languages. Several delegates commended the centres for publishing information in 123 languages in 2019, including Braille. Delegates expressed the need for the centres to provide information to the most vulnerable populations during the pandemic. A large number of speakers reiterated their support for the centres and called upon the Department to continue to make strides to strengthen their capacity.

20. The importance of strategic partnerships with civil society, academia (including through the United Nations Academic Impact) and the private sector was acknowledged by several speakers. Some speakers stressed that the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation could be best dealt with through such

collaborations, by disseminating fact-based information to partners. Several delegations called upon the Department to strengthen partnerships with social media platforms, which had a major responsibility for protecting citizens. Numerous representatives also underscored the necessity of reaching out to young people in communicating the aims and ideals of the United Nations.

21. Various speakers stressed that communications must always be compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, especially the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

22. Numerous delegations encouraged the Department to strengthen the promotion of the peacekeeping operations and peacekeepers serving under adverse conditions, including female peacekeepers. Delegates praised peacekeepers around the world for their continued work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

23. Responding to comments and queries made by Member States, the Under-Secretary-General thanked delegations for their support for the Department's efforts to combat the "infodemic" during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially its "Verified" initiative and the "Only Together" and "Pledge to Pause" campaigns. She assured delegates that the Department remained committed to the use of traditional media such as print, television and audio content, along with digital channels. The Department would also create content and utilize its platforms and partners to counter hate speech and xenophobia worldwide. She welcomed the support of delegations for Global Media and Information Literacy Week and World Press Freedom Day.

24. The Under-Secretary-General continued to underscore the Department's commitment to multilingualism, not only by achieving parity in all six official languages but also by increasing the use of non-official languages. The Department encouraged the creation of original content in multiple languages for national and global dissemination. She reiterated that the Department would continue to explore innovative ways to expand multilingual products and services, despite facing serious resource limitations in its effort to enhance multilingual capacity. The Under-Secretary-General thanked Member States for working with United Nations information centres, which are integral to reaching a global audience. She noted that the Department worked closely with the information centres and resident coordinator offices to extend and deepen its campaigns on issues such as public health, vaccine confidence and equity, climate change, peace and security and the Sustainable Development Goals.

25. The Under-Secretary-General took note of the suggestion that the Department work more closely with Member States, civil society, academia, the private sector and other partners to ensure that the Organization's messages reach the widest audience possible. She welcomed delegations' appreciation of the Department's efforts to effectively incorporate storytelling into its products, and she closed by saying that the Department counted on the continued support and guidance of Member States in its endeavours to empower people through accurate information, stories of hope and examples of solutions not only to combat the pandemic, but to get closer to the future we want.

## Chapter IV

### Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session

26. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 18 May 2021, the Committee on Information proceeded to adopt its draft report, including two draft resolutions, by consensus. A text submitted by the Group of 77 and China formed the basis for negotiation of the draft resolutions, which involved two negotiating groups, the Group of 77 and China and the European Union, as well as other Member States.

27. Before the adoption of the draft resolutions, the representative of Hungary made a statement in explanation of position in which Hungary disassociated itself from the consensus on paragraph 13 of draft resolution B, stating that Hungary does not participate in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

28. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the Russian Federation.

### Questions relating to information

#### Draft resolution A

#### Information in the service of humanity

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup>

*Urges* all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed “a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process”:

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/76/21).*

<sup>2</sup> A/76/\_\_\_\_.

independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) Facilitation, as appropriate, of access by developing countries to advanced communications technology available on the open market;

(f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

## **Draft resolution B**

### **United Nations global communications policies and activities**

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [13 \(I\)](#) of 13 February 1946, by which the General Assembly established the Department of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications), with a view to promoting to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

*Emphasizing* that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

*Stressing* that the primary mission of the Department of Global Communications is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely, relevant and multilingual information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency, and in this regard reaffirming the crucial role of the Department in times of crisis such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Recalling* its resolutions [75/101](#) A and B of 10 December 2020, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Global Communications and to maximize the use of its resources,

*Expressing its concern* that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and in this regard underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of and access to information and communications technologies in order to create a more just, equitable, accessible and effective environment in this regard,

*Recognizing* that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and at the same time emphasizing that the development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to further rising inequalities within and among countries,

*Expressing concern* about the spread of disinformation and misinformation, including on the Internet, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to violate human rights, including the right to privacy and to freedom of expression, and to incite violence, hatred, discrimination or hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists and media workers in countering this trend,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [75/267](#), adopted without a vote on 25 March 2021, by which it proclaimed 24 to 31 October of each year as Global Media and Information Literacy Week,

*Recognizing* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter, and reaffirming the crucial role of the Department of Global Communications in effectively upholding and prioritizing multilingualism in all circumstances,

*Bearing in mind* that multilingualism is an enabler of multilateral diplomacy and that it contributes to the promotion of the values of the United Nations, as well as the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter,

*Recalling* its resolution [73/346](#) of 16 September 2019 on multilingualism, in which it reaffirmed the role of the Department of Global Communications in multilingualism, notably the provisions related to the appropriate use of all the official

languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department, including in coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, as well as the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department,

## **I**

### **Introduction**

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the global communications policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat in this context;

3. *Underlines* that the reform of the Department of Global Communications with a view to adapting its capacity and work to the current trends of global communication should take into account the priorities set out by the Committee on Information as the main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department, and also underlines in that regard the importance of continuing the process of consultation with Member States;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and facilitate international cooperation aimed at the development of media, information and communication facilities and technologies in all countries, with a particular focus on capacity-building of developing countries;

5. *Reiterates its concerns* about the exponential spread and proliferation of disinformation and misinformation, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information, and emphasizes the need for all Member States to stand together to address the challenge of disinformation and misinformation, including on the Internet;

6. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of the press, and recognizes the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in this regard;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

8. *Also stresses* that Member States should abstain from using information and communications technologies in contravention of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and encourages Member States to consider better ways to cooperate, consistent with international law, in addressing threats posed by the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes;

9. *Calls upon* States to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including support in establishing propaganda platforms advocating hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including through the Internet and other media, and emphasizes in this regard the key



importance of full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;<sup>3</sup>

10. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations global communications policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Global Communications shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

11. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, following the priorities for the period 2022–2023 set out by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/101](#) B, to pay particular attention to the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and recent United Nations conferences, the maintenance of international peace and security, including peacekeeping operations, the development of Africa, the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, climate change and the environment, the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts, the defence of multilateralism, the promotion of justice and international law, disarmament, the fight against disinformation and misinformation, drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and global efforts to combat and sustainably recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including through global equitable access to and distribution of safe and effective vaccines;

12. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences, forums and summits and the progress in implementing their outcomes;

13. *Notes* the contribution of the Department of Global Communications to the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,<sup>4</sup> in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;<sup>5</sup>

## II

### General activities of the Department of Global Communications

14. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications;<sup>6</sup>

15. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to ensure, through recruitment and training, that its workforce reflects equitable geographical distribution, is diverse from a multilingual perspective and has the language skills necessary to effectively carry out its duties;

16. *Also requests* the Department of Global Communications to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation and to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat to ensure transparency and accountability of its operations in a more effective manner;

17. *Recalls* the launch of the 2020 global communications strategy for the United Nations developed in all official languages by the Department of Global Communications that is aimed not only at informing people about the state of the

<sup>3</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [73/195](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> [A/AC.198/2021/2](#), [A/AC.198/2021/3](#) and [A/AC.198/2021/4](#).

world and how the United Nations works to make it better, but also at motivating and empowering people to take action, and commends the Department for its role in promoting the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development through the coverage of the three priority themes presented in the strategy and in supporting the Secretary-General's transformative agenda;

18. *Supports and encourages* coordination between the Department of Global Communications and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization, and in this regard welcomes the coverage by the Department of the measures, actions and declarations by the Secretary-General related to the COVID-19 crisis;

19. *Calls for* intensified cooperation with the United Nations system for the effective dissemination of scientific knowledge, best practices and information regarding, inter alia, new diagnostics, drugs, COVID-19 vaccines, and relevant guidelines, as well as promoting a One Health approach to prevent and tackle further risks of emergence and transmission of zoonotic diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19;

20. *Urges* the Department of Global Communications to support, as appropriate, the efforts of the United Nations system, as well as United Nations country teams, to highlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, women and girls;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to ensure its business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and requests the Department to assess its response to the pandemic, including the impact on income-generating activities, and its overall readiness to meet the Organization's communication needs for any future global emergencies that may occur, and in this regard welcomes the crisis response initiative launched by the Department during the pandemic;

22. *Recalls* its resolution [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, in which it recognized the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, and welcomes the initiatives by the Department of Global Communications in highlighting the importance of global equitable distribution of and access to COVID-19 vaccines, including through the #OnlyTogether campaign to help in the call for scaling up manufacture and production, increasing funding and making COVID-19 vaccines available;

23. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to highlight the contributions by Member States and international organizations to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), including the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, and the continued delivery of safe and effective vaccines on all continents as the manifestation of international solidarity, and urges the Department to also effectively promote the initiatives by Member States, international organizations and vaccine producers to make COVID-19 vaccines available to those that need them most, especially to developing countries and people in vulnerable situations;

24. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

25. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Global Communications and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education, the advancement of communication and multilingualism, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/346, including through multilingual education, as vehicles for sustainable development using existing resources and bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, urges the Department to encourage the United Nations Communications Group to promote linguistic diversity in its work, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session on progress achieved in this regard;

27. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue to engage and collaborate with regional and other organizations in its efforts to promote greater awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations, with a particular focus on the current partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations;

28. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Global Communications must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,<sup>7</sup> to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, including the linguistic dimension, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website, the United Nations News Service and United Nations social media accounts, contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

30. *Underlines* the critical need to address violations of the relevant international rules and regulations that govern the area of broadcasting, including television, radio and satellite broadcasting, in the most appropriate manner;

31. *Reiterates its request* to the Department of Global Communications and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all six official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in order to avoid duplication in the issuance of United Nations publications;

32. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Department of Global Communications and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to develop new collaborative arrangements to enhance multilingualism in other outputs in a cost-neutral manner, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session;

33. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Global Communications should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing

<sup>7</sup> ST/SGB/2018/3.

countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

34. *Reiterates its growing concern* that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages, recalls the relevant report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Global Communications,<sup>8</sup> and reiterates its request that the Department, as a matter of priority, proactively explore options for delivering daily press releases in all six official languages, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, at the latest by the forty-fourth session of the Committee on Information, and report thereon to the Committee at that session;

35. *Notes with concern* the recent trends that contribute to undermining credible, transparent and fact-based information, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to promote unbiased and impartial information about the work of the United Nations, to identify specific proposals in this regard and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session;

36. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Global Communications in sharing accurate, timely, relevant and multilingual information about the COVID-19 pandemic and the United Nations system response to it, and in helping to counter the proliferation of disinformation and misinformation in this regard, as reflected in the United Nations COVID-19 communications response initiative, in particular the Verified campaign announced by the Secretary-General in April 2020, and reiterates the need to address disinformation and misinformation, to counter vaccine hesitancy and to launch public information campaigns capitalizing, inter alia, on the power of social media, to sensitize people on the importance and safety of COVID-19 vaccines;

37. *Urges* the Department of Global Communications to support the efforts of the United Nations system to eradicate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination, including based on religion or belief, harassment, racism, hate speech, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly in the response to the global crisis emanating from pandemics such as COVID-19;

38. *Takes note* of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to establish and further strengthen partnerships with new and traditional media to address hate speech narratives and to promote tolerance, non-discrimination, pluralism and freedom of opinion and expression;

### **Multilingualism and global communications**

39. *Emphasizes* that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, entails the active involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including all United Nations duty stations and offices away from Headquarters;

40. *Underlines* the responsibility of the Secretariat in the mainstreaming of multilingualism into all of its communication and information activities, within existing resources on an equitable basis, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to consider it as an integral part of its strategic approach and to continue to work with the Coordinator for Multilingualism on best practices throughout the Secretariat to fulfil this responsibility, and requests the Secretary-

<sup>8</sup> A/AC.198/2021/3.

General to report on such best practices and their implementation in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 73/346;

41. *Emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of all divisions and offices of the Department of Global Communications with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the Department has the necessary capacity in all the official languages to undertake all of its activities, and requests that this aspect be included in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

42. *Expresses appreciation* for the efforts of the Department of Global Communications in highlighting some recent important communications and messages of the Secretary-General in non-official languages, such as Portuguese, Hindi, Kiswahili, Persian, Bangla and Urdu, in addition to official languages, and in order to promote multilingualism, and encourages the Department to disseminate them in all six official languages, as well as in non-official languages whenever appropriate, within existing resources;

43. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Global Communications to enhance multilingualism in all of its activities, stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials, global promotional campaigns and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations websites and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 73/346;

44. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to build upon its efforts to implement multilingual policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, and requests the Secretariat to restore the dissemination of information in the six official languages, as appropriate, on the activities and decisions of the main organs of the Organization, and its subsidiary bodies, including resolutions on COVID-19, while the limitations on holding large in-person meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic persist;

45. *Also encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue its ongoing efforts to incorporate the working method of having thematic focal points, currently applied by the language units of the United Nations websites, as a best practice of multilingualism to improve the quality of the content of the websites;

46. *Supports and encourages* the continued use by the Department of Global Communications of Portuguese, Kiswahili, Urdu, Bangla, Hindi, Persian and the 106 languages in use by the United Nations information centres in addition to the official languages, when appropriate, according to the target audience, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations and Secretary-General's message and communication to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

47. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to continue its long-standing and ongoing efforts to promote multilingualism through global outreach in languages other than official languages, and to mobilize adequate resources, including by exploring innovative financing options as well as voluntary contributions;

**Bridging the digital divide**

48. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society<sup>9</sup> and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, emerging particularly from the fourth industrial revolution, can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, within and among countries, including by commemorating World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on 17 May;

49. *Reiterates its call upon* all stakeholders, particularly the relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates and existing resources, to continue to work together to regularly analyse the nature of digital divides, study strategies to bridge them and make their findings available to the international community, as well as to promote public and private initiatives that aim to bridge the digital divide;

**Network of United Nations information centres**

50. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in communicating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

51. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages information centres to continue their important multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work and to develop web pages and content in social media in local languages, encourages the Department of Global Communications to provide the necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

52. *Recognizes* the support of the network of United Nations information centres to the resident coordinator system during the COVID-19 pandemic, to promote the information and guidance from the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, to contribute to countering the proliferation of disinformation and misinformation and to disseminate messages and information about relevant activities of United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies;

53. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

54. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member

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<sup>9</sup> Resolution [70/125](#); see also [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

55. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

56. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work, and in that regard notes the ongoing United Nations reform, which, inter alia, calls for the integration of the information centres into the resident coordinator system, to ensure coordinated, coherent and strategic communications on local and global issues across the United Nations system and through the information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, taking into account the needs and inputs emerging at the country level, and requests the Secretary-General to include comprehensive information on this process in his next report;

57. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the free flow of information and knowledge in those countries;

58. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, through resident coordinator offices, using the mechanism established by the United Nations development system reform between the Department of Global Communications and the resident coordinator system, to provide communications support, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

59. *Further stresses* that the Department of Global Communications should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General to include in the next report comprehensive information on the functioning of the United Nations information centres, including the outcome of the review of the effective and efficient allocation of staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres and the possible measures to improve the operation of the centres in developing countries;

60. *Welcomes* the support of some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

61. *Notes* the steps taken by the Secretariat to address the concerns of many Member States regarding the impact of measures taken by the Secretariat in previous years in relation to the information centres in Cairo, Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, among others, and requests the Secretary-General to further report on and to explore ways to strengthen these and other United Nations information centres



around the world, especially in Africa, keeping in mind the need to do so within existing resources;

62. *Also notes* the discussions between the Department of Global Communications and the Government of Angola on the establishment of the information centre in Luanda to address the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to accelerate the establishment and operationalization of the centre in Luanda and report on its status to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session;

### III

#### Strategic communications services

63. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates, in accordance with the priorities set out by the Committee on Information;

#### Promotional campaigns

64. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Global Communications in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness about, inter alia, reinforcing multilateralism, unprecedented humanitarian crises and needs in the world, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, sustainable urban development, conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, climate change, sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, conservation of biodiversity and other environmental issues, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, refugees and migrants, people forcibly displaced by conflict and other means that violate human rights and international law, culture and development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, including gender equality, the rights of children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the needs of the African continent, the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>11</sup> the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and the countries that have met the criteria for graduation from the least developed country category, the importance of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and the activities that underlie them, such as corruption, embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets, money-laundering and illegal exploitation of natural resources, the identification, freezing and recovery of stolen assets and their return to their countries of origin in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>11</sup> A/57/304, annex.



against Corruption,<sup>12</sup> combating human trafficking and modern slavery, combating transnational illicit trafficking, including in cultural heritage, the permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide;

65. *Requests* the Secretariat, in particular the Department of Global Communications, to contribute to the observance of international days and celebrations established by the General Assembly and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events, in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate, in accordance with the respective Assembly resolutions, and in cooperation with the specialized agencies in charge of their implementation, where appropriate;

66. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to raise broad awareness and to engage in a comprehensive and multilingual promotional campaign and coverage, on an equal basis, of all summits, international conferences and high-level meetings mandated by the General Assembly, including those to be held in 2021;

67. *Notes* that 2021 continues to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations as a common endeavour for humanity, born out of the horrors of the Second World War, and presents a unique opportunity to stress that strengthening international cooperation is in the interest of both nations and peoples and that there is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations, recognizes the work already undertaken by the Secretariat on planning activities in that regard, and requests the Department of Global Communications to rapidly ensure the swift recovery of the multilingual services and to raise awareness of and disseminate information on the anniversary, including at Expo 2020, to be held in 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and to ensure that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, is fully respected in those activities, in a cost-neutral manner;

68. *Recognizes* the communication efforts led by the Department of Global Communications in promoting the review conferences of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their preparatory processes, in particular the production of various multimedia materials, including videos, images and graphics, to promote the conferences and the issues before them in the six official languages of the Organization, and in this regard encourages the Department to continue this practice in promoting high-level meetings, including through the use of traditional and new media such as social media, as appropriate;

69. *Recalls* its resolution [75/267](#) on Global Media and Information Literacy Week, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to commemorate Global Media and Information Literacy Week in the way that each considers most appropriate, including by focusing on commemorative, educational and public awareness activities that tackle the issue of disinformation and misinformation, within their existing resources;

70. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and to disseminate information in a cost-neutral manner on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020;

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

71. *Recalls* its resolutions [68/237](#) of 23 December 2013 and [69/16](#) of 18 November 2014 on the International Decade for People of African Descent, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to continue raising awareness of and to disseminate information on the International Decade, in accordance with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade adopted by the General Assembly,<sup>13</sup> in a cost-neutral manner;

72. *Also recalls* its resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017 on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and to disseminate information on the Decade;

73. *Further recalls* its resolution [74/135](#) of 18 December 2019, in which it proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages;

74. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, held on 24 September 2018<sup>14</sup> to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, in which the period from 2019 to 2028 was recognized as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace, and in this regard requests the Department of Global Communications to raise awareness of and to disseminate information on the Decade;

75. *Recalls* its resolution [73/327](#) of 25 July 2019 on the proclamation of 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and its resolution [74/198](#) of 19 December 2019 on the proclamation of 2021 as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, and requests the Department of Global Communications and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and to disseminate information on these International Years;

76. *Underlines* the importance of the Department of Global Communications integrating multilingualism in the planning and implementation of promotional campaigns, including the design of logotypes and isologotypes in different languages, where appropriate, as well as the use of hashtags for social media campaigns in more than one language, taking into account the needs of the target audiences;

77. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to develop partnerships with the private sector and relevant organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations and other languages, as appropriate, in order to promote the activities of the United Nations in a cost-neutral manner, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session, and in this regard welcomes the partnership with airlines that provide to their customers in-flight programmes featuring United Nations activities;

#### **Role of the Department of Global Communications in United Nations peacekeeping operations, special political missions and peacebuilding**

78. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the active involvement of the Department of Global Communications from the planning stage and in all stages of future peacekeeping operations and special political missions through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments and offices of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peace Operations, the

<sup>13</sup> Resolution [69/16](#), annex.

<sup>14</sup> Resolution [73/1](#).

Department of Operational Support, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office;

79. *Recognizes* the coordination between the Department of Global Communications and the relevant United Nations departments in disseminating information on the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative as well as on the progress of its implementation, taking into account views expressed by the Member States;

80. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, in peacebuilding efforts and by special political missions, and continues to call upon them to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping, countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and special political missions;

81. *Welcomes* the process launched to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccination for all United Nations personnel around the world, including uniformed personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions and special political missions, with safe and effective vaccines, and the support by Member States to this effort, and in this regard calls upon the Department of Global Communications to ensure that an informational campaign is planned, in parallel with the launch of the vaccination campaign in order to avoid any misinformation or negative reaction from the local population;

82. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to consider issuing an appropriate publication or other relevant communications on the activities of peacekeeping operations in coordination with the relevant United Nations entities in commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers on 29 May;

83. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Global Communications in the field of peacekeeping operations and special political missions as well as its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and in this regard invites the Department of Global Communications to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations and special political missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

84. *Expresses deep concern* over the attacks on peacekeepers and other United Nations personnel in the field, urges the Department of Global Communications to further improve its communication strategies to address the issue of anti-United Nations propaganda, which can result in such attacks, in coordination with relevant United Nations departments and field missions, and requests the Secretary-General to include an update on this issue in his next report to the Committee on Information;

85. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to support the implementation of the mandates of the peacekeeping missions by further developing and maintaining their websites and to ensure that their communications strategies are

tailored to address the host Governments, the local populations and other relevant stakeholders;

86. *Welcomes* promotional campaigns of the Department of Global Communications showcasing troop- and police-contributing countries, and encourages the Department to develop more effective and integrated communications strategies to highlight the contributions of individual troop- and police-contributing countries in an equitable manner;

87. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications to pay tribute to the peacekeepers who have served at great personal risk during the pandemic and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace, thereby also recognizing the efforts of troop- and police-contributing countries;

88. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications, in the context of its promotion of the United Nations peacekeeping activities, to highlight the work and mandate of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

89. *Recalls* its resolutions [62/214](#) of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, [70/286](#) of 17 June 2016 on cross-cutting issues, [73/302](#) of 20 June 2019 on United Nations action on sexual exploitation and abuse, [74/181](#) of 18 December 2019 on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission and [74/277](#) of 18 June 2020 on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>15</sup> and Security Council resolutions [2242 \(2015\)](#) of 13 October 2015 and [2272 \(2016\)](#) of 11 March 2016, requests the Department of Global Communications, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse in accordance with the objectives set out in the aforementioned resolutions and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving United Nations staff and related personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, requests the Departments and the Office to inform the public of steps taken to protect the rights of the victims and ensure adequate support for the witnesses, in accordance with the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, and stresses the importance of the Department of Global Communications in showcasing the compact proposed between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries in that regard, as well as all the activities related to the circle of leadership;

90. *Notes* the importance of communication activities and the dissemination of information relating to sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts, in particular, meetings and activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, country-specific configurations, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, and requests the Department of Global Communications to enhance its cooperation with these entities in that regard, in particular through increased usage of social media, with a view to widening outreach of their important work and encouraging national ownership;

<sup>15</sup> [A/75/754](#).

**Role of the Department of Global Communications in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as a means of enhancing understanding among nations**

91. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, and requests the Department of Global Communications, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns on this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations, promoting the initiative on a world against violence and violent extremism in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/241 of 20 December 2017, and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, and requests a briefing by the Secretariat on the measures taken to disseminate information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, before the next session of the Committee on Information;

92. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Global Communications, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations;<sup>16</sup>

93. *Recalls* its resolution 69/312 of 6 July 2015, in which it acknowledged the achievements of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts of the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, as well as the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,<sup>17</sup> and welcomes the continuing support of the Department of Global Communications for the work of the Alliance, including its ongoing projects;

94. *Welcomes and encourages* the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation and to strengthen people-to-people bonds;

#### **IV News services**

95. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Global Communications is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in different supports and formats, including print, radio, television and the Internet, including social media platforms, to the media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, and reiterates its request to the Department to ensure that all breaking news stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

96. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content through the coordinated and centralized UN News online portal, which provides content in both traditional and digital format in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to continue to support those efforts by seeking to ensure that those services provide content in an equitable manner

<sup>16</sup> Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

<sup>17</sup> Madrid, Spain; Istanbul, Turkey; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Doha, Qatar; Vienna, Austria; Bali, Indonesia; and Baku, Azerbaijan.

in all official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili, including by encouraging the sharing of best practices among language sections;

97. *Also recognizes* the important role of television and video services provided by the Department of Global Communications, and notes the recent efforts in making available online broadcast-quality video that can be streamed or downloaded by smaller broadcast outlets that do not have access to satellite feeds;

#### **Traditional means of communication**

98. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Global Communications and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance the timeliness, presentation and thematic focus of its multilingual programmes on United Nations activities and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of its programming to media outlets using the most suitable platforms and formats, and requests the Department to continue producing and disseminating the programmes, in accordance with client needs;

99. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Global Communications to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese, Kiswahili, Urdu, Bangla and Hindi as well as other languages, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information detailed information about such partnerships with broadcasting stations as well as statistics about their multiplying impacts on potential audiences;

100. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to continue to build partnerships with local, national and regional media outlets (print, broadcast and digital) to extend the United Nations message to all corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the News and Media Division of the Department to continue to take full advantage of modern technologies and equipment;

101. *Welcomes* the completion of an inventory of 73 years of United Nations audiovisual history and, recognizing the importance of the audiovisual archives of the United Nations, stresses the urgency of digitization in order to prevent further deterioration of these unique historical archives, encourages the Department of Global Communications to prioritize the development of collaborative arrangements for the digitization of these archives while preserving their multilingual character, in a cost-neutral manner, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session, and recalls the contribution of Oman in this regard;

102. *Notes*, in this regard, the proposed strategy for the digitization of the United Nations audiovisual archive materials for long-term preservation, access and sustainable management,<sup>18</sup> and requests the Department of Global Communications to submit for consideration by the relevant bodies both a detailed proposal for the mass digitization of the audiovisual collections, within existing resources, and plans to solicit voluntary contributions to fund the digitization and storage of the audiovisual archives;

#### **United Nations website and social media**

103. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for Member States and for the general public, the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, and in this regard reiterates the continued need for

<sup>18</sup> [A/AC.198/2014/3](#), annex.

strengthened efforts by the Department of Global Communications to regularly maintain, update and improve it;

104. *Recognizes* the potential of United Nations websites and social media accounts to offer multilingual and multimedia digital content, integrating written, spoken and visual elements in all of the official languages, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to work towards such an objective;

105. *Also recognizes* the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to gain access to and take part in the work of the United Nations in person or online, including through the work of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities, and in this regard encourages the Department of Global Communications and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to further cooperate and identify potential synergies;

106. *Further recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the impact of the pandemic, and in this regard encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications at an early stage, so that these become accessible at minimum cost;

107. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, and urges the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites, including United Nations Web TV, its video content and metadata, and the web page of the Secretary-General in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis;

108. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website in certain official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard urges the Department of Global Communications, in coordination with content-providing offices, to advance actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website;

109. *Recalls* paragraph 42 of its resolution [73/346](#), notes with concern the disparity between the English and the non-English languages on the websites maintained by the Secretariat, urges the Secretary-General to lead the efforts of all offices and departments of the Secretariat to take concrete action to address such uneven development, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders, including the Department of Global Communications, content-providing Secretariat entities and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, to continue their collaboration, within their respective mandates, so as to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites developed and maintained by all Secretariat entities, in full conformance with the principles of multilingualism and in compliance with the relevant resolutions addressing multilingualism and accessibility for persons with disabilities, by making every effort to translate materials currently available only in English and by providing offices and departments with technological solutions that comply with the principle of parity, from within existing resources;

110. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website and social media, the equitable distribution among



all official languages of financial and human resources within the Department of Global Communications allocated to the United Nations website and social media, with full respect for the needs and the specificities of all six official languages;

111. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Global Communications with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in official and non-official languages, and requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend such cooperative arrangements, in a cost-effective manner, to all the official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

112. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to ensure, to the extent possible within existing resources, that its guidelines on minimum standards for multilingualism, which serve as a guide for website developers and managers, ensure the full and equitable use of all the official languages of the United Nations in websites within the un.org domain, continue to be developed and updated and are applied consistently across Secretariat entities and their respective subdivisions, and encourages the Department to explore the possibilities of applying these norms to websites under different domain names in a cost-neutral manner, within existing resources;

113. *Encourages* the continuation of live webcasts of public meetings of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their respective subsidiary bodies, as well as of the Security Council, with interpretation services, and requests the Secretariat to make every effort to provide full access to archived videos in all official languages of all past open formal United Nations meetings with interpretation services, in strict observance of the principle of full parity of the six official languages of the United Nations, in order to promote transparency and accountability within the Organization, and in that regard requests the Department of Global Communications, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to collaborate, on a cost-neutral basis, to explore cost-efficient technological options to ensure equal availability, searchability, completeness and user-friendly presentation of webcast archives in all official languages on the United Nations website, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session on progress achieved in this regard;

114. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Global Communications, including the United Nations information centres, on a continuous basis in order to widen the outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

115. *Encourages* the Department of Global Communications, in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

116. *Acknowledges* the increasing importance of social media in order to reach the widest possible audience, and as such welcomes the growing popularity of the United Nations official social media accounts across all languages, and encourages the Department of Global Communications to continue to expand, within existing resources, its multilingual presence across outlets by providing timely updates on the work and priorities of the Organization in the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as additional non-official languages whenever appropriate;



117. *Underlines* the importance that, in the implementation of its multilingual social media strategy, the Department of Global Communications ensures full parity among the official languages of the Organization, and in that regard stresses the need for United Nations social media campaigns to use content suitable for each language, including hashtags and other labels, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session by providing available analytics, classified by official languages, as well as Kiswahili, Portuguese and Hindi, on audiences of social media accounts managed by the Secretariat;

118. *Recalls* that, in paragraph 41 of its resolution [73/346](#), the General Assembly welcomed the renewed efforts of the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the United Nations websites, presenting the status of content in non-official languages, noted with appreciation the innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on multilingualism<sup>19</sup> to reinforce the broader multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations websites, as appropriate, and requested the Secretary-General to present an updated version of the review to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

## V

### Library services

119. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Global Communications to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Outlook 2025 of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, a result of the Library working group on improvement of knowledge and electronic library services;

120. *Commends* the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other Secretariat libraries, members of the Steering Committee for Libraries of the United Nations, to put forward the New York pledge: United Nations libraries mobilize to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon United Nations Secretariat libraries to work with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on practical cooperation in devising modern library and knowledge services and electronic platforms, in a cost-neutral manner;

121. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in both hard copy and electronic formats, accessible to Member States and others, ensuring that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities, including through a multilingual home page, from within existing resources;

122. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

123. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

124. *Recalls* paragraph 80 of its resolution [74/252](#) of 27 December 2019, and requests the Secretary-general to digitize and preserve the print heritage of the Organization (1946–1993) currently held in the basements of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and make it available online through the United Nations Digital Library by

<sup>19</sup> [A/73/761](#).

exploring all possible avenues, including voluntary contributions and support from other stakeholders;

## VI

### Outreach services

125. *Stresses* that the central objective of the outreach and knowledge services implemented by the Department of Global Communications is to promote awareness of the role and work of the United Nations by fostering dialogue with global constituencies, such as academia, civil society, educators, students and youth, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations;

126. *Notes with serious concern* that many outreach and knowledge services are not yet available in all official languages, and in this regard urges the Department of Global Communications, as a matter of priority, to mainstream multilingualism into all outreach and knowledge services, bearing in mind the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations and ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages;

127. *Encourages* the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education and academic, research and scientific communities in all regions to support the common principles and purposes of the United Nations, contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, foster global citizenship and fill knowledge gaps, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution;

128. *Notes* the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact, calls upon the Department of Global Communications to promote global awareness of the Academic Impact in order to encourage balanced participation among Member States and their continued support for the initiative, within existing resources, and encourages Member States to promote the initiative among their academic institutions, as appropriate, with a view to their joining it, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [75/101](#) A and B;

129. *Commends* the United Nations Academic Impact for its continued engagement with the global community of scholarship in realizing the objectives of the Organization, requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote this initiative by encouraging eligible institutions of higher education in all regions, especially from developing countries, to enrol and contribute actively to the goals of the United Nations, and in this regard notes with appreciation the cost-neutral partnerships it has successfully initiated thus far with a view to multiplying membership;

130. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Global Communications, and requests the Department to continue to reach educators and young people worldwide through a range of multilingual multimedia platforms, including, in particular, in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda through the educational system, including elementary schools;

131. *Also welcomes* the engagement by the Department of Global Communications with Model United Nations clubs and conferences throughout the world, and requests the Department to continue its efforts to educate Model United Nations organizers and participants about the practices, procedures and norms of the

Organization, thereby ensuring the accuracy of simulations and promoting adherence to United Nations values;

132. *Notes* the efforts of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in fostering dialogue with young people on a global scale in close collaboration with other United Nations entities;

133. *Emphasizes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Global Communications of the ongoing Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the Programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants, in accordance with Assembly resolution [35/201](#) of 16 December 1980;

134. *Welcomes* the transformation of the *UN Chronicle* into a paperless magazine published online only and in all six official languages, within existing resources, and encourages the *UN Chronicle* to continue to develop partnerships and collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

135. *Acknowledges* the importance of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* as an authoritative reference work, and welcomes the work of the Department of Global Communications in expanding the content and the functions of the website of the *Yearbook*;

136. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that, in view of their income-generating nature and the significance of their educational outreach, in particular their impact on increasing numbers of young people, guided tours, including virtual tours, at United Nations Headquarters continue to be made available in all six official languages of the United Nations as well as in non-official languages;

137. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Global Communications to strengthen its role as a focal point for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States, and also notes in this regard the increasing involvement of civil society in United Nations activities, including the outreach activities directed at youth representatives and young journalists;

138. *Recalls* its resolution [41/68](#) D of 3 December 1986, commends the World Federation of United Nations Associations and its more than 100 national United Nations associations for the valuable contributions that they have made during the past 75 years through their global activities in the mobilization of popular support for the United Nations, and calls for continued collaboration between the World Federation and the Department of Global Communications in support of their complementary objectives;

139. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the sessions of the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

140. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its

priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Global Communications to continue to involve them in its global communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

141. *Welcomes* the continued collaborations between the Department of Global Communications and cultural, sporting and other personalities and characters as well as with global events such as world expos and festivals, throughout the world to promote the issues on the United Nations agenda, as well as an understanding of the role of the Organization itself, while encouraging the Department to reach out to a broader range of nationalities, notes the progress made in working with partners worldwide, and requests the Department to continue efforts to leverage these partnerships to reach mass audiences with content related to the work of the United Nations;

## **VII**

### **Final remarks**

142. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its forty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the activities of the Department of Global Communications and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution, and requests the Department to provide a briefing in this regard, before the next session of the Committee;

143. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Global Communications, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service of the Secretariat, during the annual general debate of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to mission-designated personnel of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press and other relevant officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

144. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

145. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Questions relating to information”.

