



## **Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine to the UN for the UNGA Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on Agenda item 58 “Questions relating to information” (November 2021)**

### **Mr. Chairperson**

Ukraine commends the efforts taken by Global Communications Department under the able leadership of Under-Secretary-General Melissa Flemming. The “Verified” campaign, that Ukraine has been an active part of, is instrumental for raising the public awareness of COVID-19 and vaccination.

Ukraine welcomes recent developments within the UN framework that strengthen the focus on countering the dangerous phenomenon of disinformation and misinformation, in particular adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on Global Media and Information Literacy Week, co-sponsored by my delegation. We see it as a powerful tool to counter the attempts aimed at using information as a weapon and thus to make information space safer. In this regard we reiterate that the Resolution invites Member States to commemorate this Week by focusing on “activities that tackle the issues of disinformation and misinformation”

Ukraine has also co-sponsored the Cross-Regional Statement on the First Anniversary of the United Nations communication campaign Pause! #TakeCareBeforeYouShare.

Media and information literacy helps people to navigate in the modern information landscape with vast amounts of information, rapidly transmitted from countless sources. The relevant decision of the General Assembly is an important building block, but at the same time it does not completely secure our firewall against disinformation.

Ukraine believes that a global and systemic approach is required to tackle the fake news. It is clear that such practices threaten the United Nations values. That is why the United Nations should comprehensively address all attempts to falsify information and to use it as a tool for undermining public safety, peace and security. Propaganda and disinformation, as well as those engaged in these activities, should be clearly dissociated from professional journalism and journalists.

Ukraine remains committed to further strengthening the safe and conducive environment for free media and continues to take consistent measures to this end. However, we remain deeply

concerned over the deteriorating situation with the freedom of expression and the work of journalists in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, both in Crimea and Donbas.

We consider it essential to ensure proper reflection of the need to tackle disinformation and misinformation in the UN agenda and work of its main bodies. This topic also deserves to be included as a stand-alone item into UN commemoration calendar of international days and weeks.

Such a step could be instrumental for raising awareness, identifying the points of convergence and laying foundation for further common activities to increase our capacity for prevention and resilience to disinformation.

**Thank you, Mr.Chairperson.**