

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

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before the Sixth Committee

70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

On Agenda item 167:

"Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country"

New York, 16 November 2015

In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to make a statement on this agenda item of high importance to Member-States of this Organization. To my delegation "The Committee on Relations with the Host Country" has a unique responsibility in addressing the issues in regard to facilitating the representation of the Member-States to the United Nations in accordance with international law, the United Nations Charter and specifically the Headquarters Agreement concluded between the United Nations and the host country in 1947. The Agreement has carefully covered many fundamental aspects of the relations between the two parties. Therefore we reiterate our position that its thorough and full implementation can contribute to the smooth functioning of the UN secretariat and the Missions accredited to it while minimizing difficulties that may arise. In fact the realization of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in particular its paragraph two of Article one on "*sovereign equality of all Members*" to a certain extent depends on "equal opportunities of representation of each Member-State to the United Nations".

Having this important notion in mind, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 2819 as the founding document of the Host Country Committee, it requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The Assembly through this practice sought to ensure that the Host Country Committee would be involved in the full implementation of the Headquarters Agreement as the most important document governing the relations with the host country.

Mr. Chairman,

There are issues that can seriously affect the well functioning of the accredited Permanent Missions and thus when such issues are referred to this Committee, it is highly expected that the concerns and complaints raised are being effectively addressed by the Committee. We continue to believe that there are certain capacities this Committee uniquely enjoys and such potentials can be constructively utilized in a spirit of mutual cooperation in order to address the difficulties referred to it.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are taking up this item today as the last item of the work of the Sixth Committee, my delegation wishes to note that Committee's annual report was presented earlier this month allowing more time for Member-States to review it. This is in line with the request made last year that there should be reasonable time between circulation of the report and the consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee. In the same line the consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee as well as consultations on its draft resolution is now more consistent with the regular practice of the Sixth Committee on other items. We encourage more efforts to this end.

I reiterate that silent procedure on this and other resolutions of the Sixth Committee should not take effect immediately after the introduction of the draft resolution. There ought to be reasonable time for delegations to consult including with their capitals.

We also reiterate that the GA resolution 2819 has asked the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement to the Host Committee. The Secretary-General, in his capacity, is a party to this Agreement and should ensure that its provisions are implemented continuously. We are of the view that like other UN bodies, the working methods of the Host Country Committee need to be improved. The General Assembly through operational paragraph 12 of last year resolution requested enhancing of the work and effectiveness of the Host country Committee. There has been some efforts in this regard and we encourage the Committee to continue to consider appropriate measures to meet that request.

Mr. Chairman,

Better performance of the Organization and the Missions accredited to it as well as addressing the difficulties in this regard are in the interests of all Member-States. We continue to follow up on the work of the Committee and good efforts by the host country authorities to minimize the problems facing delegations participating in the functioning of the United Nations.

I thank you