

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Statement by**

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the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations**

**Before the Sixth Committee of the 78th Session of the United Nations General  
Assembly on Agenda Item 161: “Report of the Committee on Relations with the  
Host Country”**

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**Mr. Chair,**

I would like to commence by expressing gratitude to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for his tireless efforts in steering the Committee and his utmost dedication and good faith to resolve issues related to the implementation of the obligations of the Host Country. We take note of the report of the Host Country Committee contained in document A/78/26.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the honorable delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations and the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement. We would like to deliver our statement in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished colleagues,**

The very underlying reason for the establishment the Host Country Committee and the annual consideration of the work of the Committee and its terms of reference on the issues were to ensure appropriate environment for all representatives to discharge their functions and to step towards the betterment of the situation not vice versa; in fact, it has long been a high expectation that the strong message and demand of the General Assembly through its relevant resolutions and calls of the international community and many Member States would lead to the full and effective implementation of the obligations of the Host Country.

Nonetheless, the United States remains intransigent and continues to impose impediments as well as unlawful discriminatory measures against Iranian representatives which hinder their efficient performance and independent exercise of functions; these include impediments on the movement of Iranian representatives, the secondary screening procedure, directing affront to the dignity of Iranian representatives, non-issuance and delayed issuance of visas and issuance of single-entry visas which are discriminatory in nature and hinder the exercise of functions of representatives in connection with the United Nations.

It is regrettable that after decades since the establishment of the United Nations, holding numerous meetings of the Sixth committee considering this agenda item and meetings of the Host Country Committee and despite clear and undebatable obligations binding on the United States as the Host Country of the United Nations Headquarters, not only the issues arising due to the host country non-compliance of its obligations have not been resolved but have also exacerbated.

As a case in point, I would like to refer to the unlawful secondary screening procedure imposed by the Host Country against Iranian representatives which has not ameliorated; rather conversely has deteriorated. In one of the most recent instances of such unacceptable and unjustifiable procedure, on 24 September 2023, upon the departure of Iranian representatives who had participated in the high-level week of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, an unfortunate incident took place at the John F. Kennedy airport, New York, which involved degrading treatment of Iranian representatives by the Host Country authorities.

On the said day, three representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, after receiving boarding passes and prior to boarding Lufthansa flight No. 401 scheduled for 15:45, were inspected through the unlawful and discriminatory “secondary screening” procedure at the airport by the United States authorities. During such undue and unacceptable “screening”, regrettably a particular case of a more severe and flagrant affront to the dignity of one of the representatives also occurred whereby an unprecedented inspection procedure in total disregard for the status of representatives of Member States of the United Nations was conducted against the said representative.

In addition to the continued objections of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the secondary screening procedure highlighted including in the reports of the Committee and formal letters and documents submitted prior to 24 September 2023, following the above-mentioned incident, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought the matter to the attention of the Host Country and the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to resolve the matter. We made every effort in good faith to ensure that the Host Country provides appropriate reparations for the

unlawful conduct of its authorities and that the latter refrains from imposing such unlawful measures and desists from directing affront to the dignity of our representatives, nevertheless, the Host Country not only refused from complying with its obligations but also conducted the said procedure against another representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 28 October 2023.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning the unlawful procedure conducted against Iranian representatives by the Host Country authorities on 24 September 2023 and rejecting the secondary screening procedure, highlights that such unlawful procedures and the degrading treatment of Iranian representatives by the Host Country authorities violates the international obligations of the Host Country under international law and the relevant international legal instruments. It is in contravention of the inviolability of the person of representatives and constitute gross violation of the obligations of the Host Country, *inter alia*, the obligations to treat representatives with due respect.

In the light of the relevant Judgment of the International Court of Justice in 2008 regarding a contentious case, it is reminded that the obligation to treat representatives translates into positive obligations for the Host Country as regards the actions of its own authorities, and into obligations of prevention as regards possible acts by individuals. It imposes on the Host Country the obligation to protect the honour and dignity of representatives. However, the United States has failed to observe and fulfil such obligations vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran. We once again urge the Host Country to ensure treatment of Iranian representatives with utmost respect and also to refrain from imposing secondary screening against representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran while providing appropriate reparations including through satisfaction for the internationally wrongful acts committed against Iranian representatives.

**Mr. Chair,**

As stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all its Member States; and the United Nations and its Member States which include the Host Country shall act in accordance with this principle. Article 105 of the Charter confers upon the Host Country obligations to be fulfilled without discrimination. The foregoing facts, in particular, and the applicable international law, in general, make it quite axiomatic and undebatable that the Host Country in implementing its obligations could not make discrimination as between Member States nor could it derogate from its obligations due to its bilateral considerations. The Host Country, however, has derogated from its obligations on the basis of its political considerations and has

indeed made discrimination between Member States as to the implementation of its obligations which is yet another instance of violations of the relevant applicable international law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that the said unlawful measures and impediments imposed by the Host Country of the Headquarters of the United Nations against Iranian representatives and the affront directed against them constitute gross violations of the applicable international law including customary international law governing the privileges and immunities of representatives as well as the relevant international legal instruments including Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946), the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations (1947) and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). Such unlawful measures and impediments which have detrimental impacts on the independent exercise and efficient performance of representatives in connection with the United Nations must be terminated. We urge the Host Country to abide by its obligations and commitments and desist and refrain from imposing any impediments against Iranian representatives.

**Mr. Chair,**

In conclusion, we would also like to highlight the important role, mandates, and responsibilities of the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the full and effective implementation of the obligations of the Host Country and in asserting the rights and interests of the Organization on behalf of Member States. We are of the view that the invocation of and resorting to Section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement by the Secretary-General with a view to ensuring the fulfillment of the obligations of the Host Country vis-à-vis affected Member States and termination of all of the unlawful measures and impediments imposed by the Host Country, is *indeed* in the interest of the Organization in its entirety.

As once was pointed out by the relevant department of the Secretariat “the Organization could not function properly if representatives of Members were prevented from performing their functions or from travelling to and from meetings. The Organization had a clear interest in assuring the privileges and immunities. It therefore seemed elementary that the rights of representatives should properly be protected by the organization”.

**I thank you Mr. Chair.**