

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

**Draft Statement by the representative of the Islamic Republic of
Iran**

before

the Sixth Committee of the 79th session of

General Assembly of the United Nations

**Agenda Item 168: Report of the Committee on
Relations with the Host Country**

4 November 2024-New York

Mr. Chair.

At the outset, please allow me to express my gratitude to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for her dedication and efforts in steering the Committee. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

The very *raison d'être* of the establishment of the Committee and the responsibilities and mandates stipulated in the relevant General Assembly resolutions have been conferred upon the Committee to, amongst others, ensure the existence of conditions conducive to the effective functioning of the United Nations and the missions accredited to it as well as to ensure effective implementation of the obligations assumed by the Host Country as per relevant international legal instruments governing the privileges, immunities and rights of representatives and missions. To that end, effective discharge of the mandate of the Committee as well as that of the Secretary-General remains vital.

Mr. Chair.

Decades have passed since the establishment of the Committee in 1971 and its predecessor. Over the years, the General Assembly, through numerous resolutions, has addressed various impediments and issues that certain member States have been facing as a result of non-performance and violations of obligations by the Host Country; the General Assembly has aimed to resolve the issues, nonetheless, the Host Country has failed to fulfil its obligations. Persistent challenges and impediments imposed by the Host Country against representatives continue to undermine the independent exercise of functions and efficient performance of duties; by way of example, the imposition of unlawful and discriminatory 25-mile-radius movement restrictions against representatives, subjecting representatives to arbitrary secondary screening procedures and the challenges emanating from issuance of single-entry visas are amongst the impediments our representatives have been facing.

Single-entry visas, which often take several months to be issued, continue to negatively affect the efficient performance of representatives. The Host Country continues to subject Iranian representatives to the discriminatory secondary screening procedure. This meeting has already been seized of other forms of impediments and discriminations imposed by against representatives and missions which evinces the scope and scale of the issues.

On the last point related to the unlawful secondary screening procedure, I would like to mention that since the last consideration of the present agenda item by this august Committee, in spite of all the efforts made and avenues exhausted in good faith by my delegation, the Host country continued to impose the secondary screening procedure against a number of Iranian representatives including on 10 February and 22 March 2024. During such procedures, in particular cases a disrespecting procedure was conducted against representatives which involved an invasive and intrusive body search in total disregard to the dignity and person of the representatives.

As to the situation surrounding the unlawful secondary screening procedures, we would like to highlight that in addition to the principle of the inviolability of representatives, the very particular status of the established notion of “*dignity*”, in international law governing the privileges and immunities of representatives well evinces the grave importance of protecting and respecting the dignity of representatives. The solemn, serious, and critical tasks and functions that representatives of member States have in connection with the United Nations require that they should not feel any sort of harassment on the part of the Host Country. This is essential for safeguarding their independent exercise of functions.

Mr. Chair,

As another pertinent matter, we would like to refer to the recent developments in misuse of information and communications technology by individuals and groups for the purpose of incitement to violence and directing severe affront and verbal insult against representatives. Such acts undermine the efficient performance and exercise of functions while the purposeful dissemination of such acts on social media platforms constitutes a clear attack on the honour and dignity of representatives and causes further concerns as to the safety and security of representatives and their safe and smooth conducts of duties.

Mr. Chair,

The unlawful measures and conducts against representatives and permanent missions of member States, in particular those referred to in the present statement and statements of other concerned delegations, impair the independent exercise of functions and efficient performance of representatives, and deprive delegations and missions of appropriate conditions for normal functions and thus must be terminated and prevented. We would like to reiterate that these unlawful measures and conducts, jointly and separately, contravene the relevant applicable international legal instruments and international law including Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the 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).

We would like to recall that in accordance with the relevant international law and in the light of Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant applicable international legal instruments, the Host Country, in implementing its obligations, could not discriminate as between member States and may not also derogate from its obligations on the basis of its bilateral considerations. Non-discrimination in implementation of obligations to all member States and to the United Nations as a whole constitutes a foundational element in realizing and giving effect to the relevant obligations in good faith, in particular, the Host Country obligations arising from Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations as well as emanating from the sovereign equality of all member States upon which the Organization is based.

Finally, and in the light of the foregoing, taking into account the critical importance of ensuring an appropriate environment and conditions of life and work without discrimination for all representatives and missions, we urge the Host Country to implement its obligations and to that end, refrain from any act or omission that may hinder the independent exercise of functions of representatives and their efficient performance. It goes without saying that addressing the current critical challenges requires active engagement of the Secretary-General in resolving the issues by taking step in employing the existing means for settlement of disputes through arbitration as stipulated in Section 22 of the Headquarters Agreement. This is also a call reaffirmed time and again by the General Assembly via its annual relevant resolutions.

Thank you Mr. Chair.