

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to join the previous speakers to congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election to guide our Committee. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in fulfilling your important task for the success of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications for her introductory statement on 12th October, 2020.

My Delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Guyana and Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) respectively.

My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for

Digital Divide

Mr. Chairman,

We have witnessed that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and much more attention is needed to bridge existing and emerging digital divides to allow all countries to take advantage of digitalization. In this regard, we would like to call upon all stakeholders to work together within their mandates and resources to develop and implement a comprehensive approach in appropriately assessing the digital divide 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. We also would like to encourage the Department to continue using a blend of new and traditional media in communicating the principles and activities of the United Nations to the global public in order to bridge the digital divide.

Fake news, misinformation and disinformation

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring everyone has access to credible, timely and accurate information is vitally important, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has proved us that the lives of human beings are put at risk not only due to health crisis but to a surge in fake news, including misinformation and disinformation, which exploit public fear and anxiety. In this aspect, we urge the Department of Global Communications to continue its role as a responsible messenger of the UN to disseminate factual, accurate, dependable and credible information to the global audience. We wish to commend the efforts of the Department in this regard for launching a new COVID-19 Communications Response Initiative called Verified designed to combat the ‘infodemic’ of misinformation based on science, solutions and solidarity.

Efforts of Myanmar’s Government in combating fake news and hate speech

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Myanmar has fully recognized that it is critical to actively take all necessary actions for combating fake news and hate speech and we condemn any kind or act of hate speech. In this aspect, the Government has issued directives or

All the ministries have been undertaking all necessary measures on combating fake news and hate speech, including participating in media information literacy (MIL) workshop, round table talks and discussions for better understanding on hate speech and anti-hate speech activities. In this regard, the officials of Ministry of Information of Myanmar participated in ASEAN Special Online Workshop on Fake news hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam with the aim to combating fake news and misinformation, which was held on 23rd July 2020 and the experts from UNESCO and the European Union to ASEAN, as well as the relevant persons from information sector of the ASEAN, participated the meeting.

Moreover, in terms of combating fake news during COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar provides the public with timely and real information of COVID-19 and also has collaborated with the Ministry of Transport and Communications to track down people who spread fake news.

2020 General Election and dissemination of reliable news and information

Mr. Chairman,

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audience. We remain confident that the Department of Global Communications discharges its duties with professional integrity.