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Agenda item 56

Questions relating to information

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 March 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.68](#) and [A/75/L.68/Add.1](#))]

75/267. Global Media and Information Literacy Week

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹

Recalling article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³

Recalling also its resolutions [75/101](#) A of 10 December 2020, entitled “Information in the service of humanity”, and [75/101](#) B of 10 December 2020, entitled “United Nations global communications policies and activities”,

Recalling further its resolution [75/202](#) of 21 December 2020, in which it recognized the need for people to have media and information literacy skills and welcomed the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week from 24 to 31 October 2020,

Welcoming resolution 56 adopted unanimously on 25 November 2019 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fortieth session, proclaiming 24 to 31 October of each year as Global Media and Information Literacy Week,⁴

Reaffirming its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fortieth Session, Paris, 12–27 November 2019*, vol. 1, sect. IV.



Highlighting the global concerns about the exponential spread and proliferation of disinformation and misinformation, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information, and emphasizing the need for all Member States to stand together to address the challenge of disinformation and misinformation,

Emphasizing that media and information literacy is also needed for the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing that substantial digital divides and data inequalities exist, including the gender digital divide, within and among countries and regions, and between developed and developing countries, including in terms of access to and use of information, media and digital and communications technologies, which may affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals to disseminate information and communicate their views, further recognizing that there is a need to ensure the diversity of sources and the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and noting that these issues can be addressed by, among other things, improving people's competencies, including as part of lifelong learning,

Recognizing also the importance of access to information and communication technologies, including in relation to connectivity and the development of broadband infrastructure and services, especially in a post-pandemic world, and stressing the need to ensure that the benefits of these technologies are accessible to all countries,

Reaffirming the need to ensure balance such that the fight against disinformation and misinformation promotes and does not infringe on individuals' freedom of expression and access to information, and noting that media and information literacy can help to bring about this balance through awareness-raising and a focus on the empowerment of people,

Taking note of the statement by the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly entitled "Responding to an 'infodemic' – sharing best practices",

Taking note also of the cross-regional statement on the infodemic in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), endorsed by 130 Member States, as well as an observer State and a Permanent Observer,

Taking note further of the Secretary-General's message to the high-level conference on the theme "The danger of disinformation – countering fake news and safeguarding health in the post-truth era",

Taking note of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, in which it is proposed that the United Nations system establish and strengthen partnerships with new and traditional media to promote the values of tolerance, non-discrimination, pluralism and freedom of opinion and expression, and to address hate speech narratives,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system in helping to counter the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, by sharing accurate, timely, relevant and multilingual information, as reflected in the COVID-19 communications response initiative of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in particular the Verified campaign announced by the Secretary-General in April 2020, and the joint statement entitled "Managing the COVID-19 infodemic: promoting healthy behaviours and mitigating the harm from misinformation and disinformation" of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the International Telecommunication Union, Global Pulse and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Expressing its appreciation to all Member States and stakeholders that have hosted or have been involved in the promotion of Global Media and Information Literacy Week,

Recognizing the lead role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with other United Nations specialized agencies, in coordinating Global Media and Information Literacy Week celebrations around the world,

1. *Proclaims* 24 to 31 October of each year the Global Media and Information Literacy Week;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to commemorate Global Media and Information Literacy Week in the way that each considers most appropriate, including by focusing on commemorative, educational and public awareness activities that tackle the issue of disinformation and misinformation, within their existing resources;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to develop and implement policies, action plans and strategies related to the promotion of media and information literacy, and to increase awareness, capacity for prevention and resilience to disinformation and misinformation, as appropriate;

4. *Also encourages* all Member States to incorporate youth perspectives in media and information literacy policies, strategies and initiatives, and actively involve youth in the promotion of media and information literacy;

5. *Urges* Member States to ensure that their plans, policies and strategies to counter disinformation and misinformation are in keeping with the principles of independent and pluralistic media and the right to freedom of expression and opinion;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance cooperation on media and information literacy at the global, regional and national levels, under the coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as to strengthen communications capacities and improve media infrastructure and communications technology in developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

7. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to deepen their cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this field and to support Member States, upon their request, in promoting media and information literacy and in observing Global Media and Information Literacy Week;

8. *Encourages* relevant private sector organizations, including technological intermediaries and social media platforms, to promote media and information literacy, as a way to empower all people and facilitate digital inclusion and global connectivity, and to assist in the fight against disinformation and misinformation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.

58th plenary meeting
25 March 2021