

Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations

At the outset allow me to congratulate you, Madame chair and other members of the bureau on your elections, and to thank the Under-Secretary-General and head of the Department of Public Information, Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal for his statement. Lebanon appreciates the three reports of the Secretary-General on the activities and strategies of the Department of Public Information.

Mr. Chairman,

Knowledge is a powerful force in our world, affecting great influence and impact upon our societies. It is our duty at the United Nations, to harness the use of knowledge in pursuit of

Moreover, Lebanon has always, with its rich history of the printing press, valued traditional media platforms. In this context, the local radio in Beirut has contributed to the public campaign for sustainable development. As part of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, an awareness campaign on sustainable energy was launched on MTV Lebanon, dubbed ‘Change your habits, save your energy,’ reaching around 40 million viewers over a period of just one week.

Such use of interactive platforms broadens the reach of the messages and activities of the UN and contributes to overall transparency and accountability of the UN system.

Mr. Chairman,

With our increasing interconnectedness, the role of traditional journalism has developed to deliver its services in new and engaging ways, involving the greater participation of youth, women and civil society. Across the globe, we have witnessed this evolution through the stories of citizens empowering their voices, as journalists and young people have stood side by side to convey their message to the world for dignity, freedom and a more promising future. In this spirit, Lebanon acclaims the achievement of Ms. Tawakul Karman, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, as the Chairwoman of ‘Women Journalists Without Chains’.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of accessibility to information bears great moral relevance in its ability to reveal social realities and unveil injustices. In this regard, Lebanon acclaims the work being done by DPI’s Special Information Program on the Question of Palestine in awareness-raising and efforts towards a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Allow me to conclude with a quote by Napoleon, as found in the personal journals of thinker Albert Camus:

*"There are only two powers in the world: the sword and the mind. In the end, the sword is always conquered by the mind."*

At the United Nations, let us work towards our collective mission, to empower the mind over the sword and prove that knowledge can prevail for a more just, equitable and peaceful world.