







Common Agenda, all the activities of the (C) have the -ustainable ! e#elopment . oals at their center, as we aim to accelerate their achievement.

"n an effort to diversify partnerships and strengthen outreach on the . oals, our ! epartment engages with the global publishing industry through the -! . >ublishers Compact, which currently has more than 600 members. These publishing entities commit to furthering the -! . s by implementing sustainable business practices and publishing related content. These partnerships

six provinces as part of a nationwide campaign. This was promoted in 17 television and 16 radio public service announcements in 11 local languages.

Another example is in AraFil, our Information Center used special Instagram filters that

Ladies and gentlemen,

In view of the multiple and multilayered challenges of our time, our Department tries to benefit from existing opportunities, while testing new technologies and activities, pushing boundaries and moving faster.

For example, on the activities side, the Department supported the UN participation at Expo 2020 in Dubai, which represented a unique occasion for direct engagement with the visiting public, media outlets, and representatives from 196 national pavilions. "I know many of you," think all of you, were represented there. The UN Hub at Expo 2020 received over 100,000 visitors, generated over 100,000 commitments in support of the UN agenda and also climate action, and hosted 10 panel discussions and report launches.

As regards new technologies, a state-of-the-art TV studio was launched in 2021, thanks to a generous donation by the Netherlands, and has since been used for live and hybrid events focusing on the UN. A new system for the press to request or renew their accreditation was also implemented. And, a new 7eye-lebel camera was installed at the center of the Security Council Chamber, helping us deliver the proceedings from the room much more vividly.

Distinguished delegates,

Today, as we mark the opening day of this Committee, we also mark the annual World Press Freedom Day. Despite the progress made in ensuring press freedom, journalism still faces a multitude of threats, including an increasingly polluted information environment, where mis- and disinformation run wild.

We see a range of bad actors exploiting the sincere demand for information on issues such as COVID-19 or the climate emergency. They circulate false, misleading or distorted content to warp our understanding of events, and they are getting millions of views. Some of these mis- and disinformation actors aim to create confusion and a state of information paralysis. Others are just exploiting public sympathies for financial gain.

The problem is more severe in the digital realm, where social media platforms, as useful as they are, and can be, were not designed to keep us informed, but rather, to attract advertisers. They were designed to keep us engaged. Amplified by algorithms designed to grab attention, it is the most provocative and outlandish posts that rise to the top of our feeds, many of them including false and misleading claims.

Yet, digital platforms can still serve humanity's best interests for peace, dignity, and the rule of law. This is our vision. We want to work toward a digital public square that is inclusive and safe for all and we wish that our digital commons are managed as a global public good.

To this goal, my team and I, as called for in the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report, are working to develop a Code of Conduct for integrity in public information. We are just at the beginning of this process and we will turn to you, distinguished delegates, for consultations in the next few months.

To mark World Press Freedom Day, we will hold an annual celebration via the UN Webcast tomorrow, as mentioned by the Chair, with messages or contributions from the Secretary-General,

the >resident o the . eneral Assembly, and other key igures, including the Chair o this Committee, Ambassador Espinosa. " encourage all delegates to take part in the con#ersation and to help us promote this cause.

/r. Chair,

A worn-out pro#erb goes, 7the irst casualty o war is truth8. " belie#e many delegations here with