

Statement by Ali Nasimfar
The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the Sixth Committee
75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on Agenda Item 171:
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
New York, 23 October 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Having the privilege of hosting the UN in its territory, the U.S. was supposed to enable the UN to fully and efficiently discharge its responsibilities. It was supposed to act as a hospitable host for its guests. It was supposed to at least maintain the appropriate conditions for delegations and missions accredited to the UN in order to effectively carry out their normal activities. It was supposed to ensure the participation of all delegations in all UN meetings by issuing visas promptly and free from political consideration. Although these requirements, at a first glance, seem to be more ethical in nature, they have also been crystalized in the binding instruments that today form a robust body of law which delineate the obligations and commitments for the Host Country.

However, neither the moral nor binding nature of these obligations have prevented the U.S. from resisting the temptation of weaponizing its privileges of hosting the UN. The denial of a visa for H.E. Mr. Zarif, the Foreign Minister of Iran, to participate at the UN Security Council meeting this year was rooted in the weakness and undermined the principles and objectives of the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic Iran has faced and continues to face unprecedented restrictions and punitive measures unseen in the history of the United Nations. Such restrictions have been designed to impose harassment as well as immense psychological pressure on our diplomats with a goal to ultimately cease the existence of our Mission in contravention of the very foundation of the United Nations, i.e. the sovereign equality of its Member States.

Dispute Settlement Mechanism in the Headquarters Agreement with a view to remove all illegal restrictions once and for all.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.