



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other international
organizations in Geneva

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Statement

By

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Item 5:

**Panel discussion with the Theme
Towards a safer space for minorities**

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Madam Chair,

The Iranians, guided by true teachings of Islam and inspired by our long history of tolerance among Ibrahimite religions, have always respected and revered Christianity and Judaism. The testimony for that is our full respect for our Jewish and Christian communities reflected very well through Iranian social media as well.

We are proud of having a long tradition of peaceful coexistence among Iranian Muslims, Jews, Zoroastrians and Armenis. Iran is also proud to be the home of Saebins, one of the oldest religious communities in the world.

The Jewish and Christian in Iran enjoy full freedom and privileges to practice their religions and to benefit from equal rights as accorded to their fellow Muslim Iranians under the law. They each have their own representative in the Parliament.

We have taken maximum care to help this atmosphere of peaceful coexistence be translated and disseminated in social media platforms.

Madam President,

We condemn abusing the notion of anti-Semitism to label whoever criticizes the criminal and wrongful behavior of the Israeli regime in the social media. It is not only hate speech but also speech that denies or minimizes genocide and crimes against humanity that shall come under scrutiny.

Madam President,

We can hardly expect a clean social media unless hate-mongering supremacist and xenophobic messaging is curbed under the law and the perpetrators are held to account.

The world has witnessed a dangerous surge in supremacist and radical xenophobic ideologies for the past few years as some senior political figures have also fueled racist and anti-foreigners' sentiments. The US has in particular contributed to a global rise in racist turn by applying discriminatory travel bans on Muslims and by introducing sweeping unilateral coercive measures against developing nations.

Islamophobia and anti-Muslim rhetoric, including by falsely associating Islam with terrorism, continue to poison social media networks in some EU countries where even extreme provocateur anti-Islam messaging is justified and applauded as "freedom of expression". This is a travesty and should be reversed.

This Forum can help elaborate a sort of code of conduct to regulate the conduct of social media networks in order to contain proliferation of racism, hatred and intolerance.

This Forum is best placed to provoke critical thinking on how effectively we could avoid that indifference which is actively enforced upon general public through twisted narratives.

I thank you Madam President.