

International Day of Nowruz Celebration at UN in Vienna

Sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran and at the beginning of spring and Persian New Year, International Day of Nowruz was celebrated on Thursday 24 March 2016, at the United Nations Office in Vienna by the countries of Nowruz region including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A high number of diplomats and representatives of Member States from different geographical regions as well as the heads of Vienna-based International organizations joined others in celebrating this inspired event.

In a Joint statement delivered by H. E. Ambassador Reza Najafi, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Vienna, He welcomed and congratulated all participants on behalf of the Peoples and the Governments of the Nowruz regions on the occasion of 21 March as the International Day of Nowruz.

He added “so much has been said about NOWRUZ, about its significance in the history of mankind, about its place in the heart of millions of people and about its glorious beauty embodied in this marvelous tradition where the rejuvenation of nature is celebrated as a sign of life, vitality and happiness. Nowruz, the feast of many nations and communities, has been the most glorious spring festivity in the world since the old ages”.

He also said “Many historians believe such festivities existed within the primary tribes living in old Persia even before the entrance of the Aryans. Nowruz is based on the respect and love for people. That’s why Nowruz celebration covers a large geographic area of many nations and has become the common language of millions of people in Asia, Indian subcontinent, Central Asia, the Middle East, Caucasus, the Balkans, the

Black Sea area and many other places on earth. Today, Nowruz is celebrated by more than 300 million throughout the world”.

He continued “Nowruz, this aged celebrated occasion which has lived with us since the legendary king, Jamshid Shah, has always been an auspicious occasion to wipe the color of plight and grief off the face of people and mingling their souls with the joyful and reinvigorating spirit of nature. Nowruz can open a new chapter to bring together all the nations. The table of Nowruz calls all members of the human family, regardless of their geographical distance or political borders, to come together under the roof of friendship, compassion and unity. Promotion of shared humane feelings throughout the universe is the goal of the Nowruz festival. Alongside the rejuvenation of the earth, Nowruz promises the restoration of the grounds of friendship and reconciliation; and collaboration based on our common values and perfectionist temperament”.

In conclusion Ambassador Najafi said “Inspired by Nowruz and its blessings, let us pray that peace and righteousness prevails in the world. Let us hope that all nations can leave in peace and harmony and enjoy life to the fullest as has been intended by our ancestors. May God grants you all your wishes in this New Year and gives you all the happiness and prosperity you deserve”.

In this ceremony Mr. Dennis Thatchaichawalit, Deputy Director General of United Nations Office in Vienna, made a statement on behalf of Mr. Fedotov, Director General of UNOV, explaining the background of the International Day of Nowruz and its proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly.

During the event Iranian, Afghan and Kazakh artists performed some pieces of traditional music of their own countries, followed by cultural artworks and handicrafts show, Haft-Seen table as well as video clip on Nowruz culture and traditions. Last part of the event was food festival of Nowruz region countries’ cuisines.

21 March was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day of Nowruz and this is the third consequent year that the event is being celebrated in the United Nations Office in Vienna.