

Statement by H.E. Mr. Carlos Dos Santos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese speaking countries (CPLP) (2 May 2001)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to take the floor for the first time at the Committee on Information, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, known as "CPLP", which has been granted observer status during the 54th General Assembly.

As you are aware, Mozambique currently holds the Presidency of the CPLP, a multidimensional forum gathering the Portuguese-speaking nations of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe. East Timor is already an active party of our Community, as it was warmly welcomed in the Maputo Summit.

Allow me to extend, on behalf of the member states of CPLP, our most sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the distinguished colleagues, on your assumption as new members of the Bureau of the Committee on Information.

We also tak

We highlight that the Portuguese-

Let me point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Heads of State of the Seven Portuguese-speaking countries and Mr. Xanana Gusmão, on behalf of the Timorese people, are sending their firm messages of support for this new challenge of UN Radio.

We must remark that this new service will be made available without DPI having to commit further budgetary resources. Such accomplishment is to be fully credited to the personal efforts of Mr. João Lins de Albuquerque (UN Radio) and Mr. António Carlos Silva (Multimedia Unit), who are putting additional work into making this initiative come true.

Mr. Chairman,

Portuguese has sided along the UN official languages in the history of the Organization's radio service for almost half a century. With just these two men's diligence, the Portuguese-language programme found a valuable platform to improve the information service towards reaching the same technological level already available to the six UN official languages.

Once again, we only want practical means to keep providing good quality service.

Mr. Chairman,

In Europe and, particularly, in Africa and Latin America, millions use radio as a primary source of information on world affairs. In Asia, and especially in East Timor, UN Radio has been a fierce advocate of the importance of the UN role today and in the coming Millennium.

The Members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries do believe that the United Nations will largely gain from a UN Radio that really tries to reach out and wants to remain politically meaningful for the public opinion of those members of the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.