## Statement by H.E. Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa, Representative of Japan to the United Nations (23 April 2002)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you for your re-election to the chairmanship of this Committee. I am confident on that our work will continue to go smoothly under your able leadership. My delegation will give its full support to you and the Bureau during the course of this session.

May I thank Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Interim Head of the Department of Public Information, for the very comprehensive and policy-oriented presentation that he made yesterday. Later I would like to return to some of the pertinent questions that he raised in his statement.

I wish also to express my deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports to the Committee (A/AC.198/2002/2-7). These useful documents, in particular the report on "ReorientatepomitentLet me touch upon some of the issues being treated at the current session of the Committee.

First, I wish to refer to the reform of the DPI. The Secretary-General, at the very beginning of his second term of office, expressed his renewed and strong commitment to the reform of the whole United Nations system. Reorientation in the field of public information and communication is included in this reform effort, and is thus a major topic at this session of the Committee.

The importance of public information activities by the United Nations is widely recognized. They are an essential factor in enhancing understanding and support for the Organization as it addresses not only issues related to international peace and security but also economic and social issues such as poverty, the environment, human rights, HIV/AIDS. At the same time, in the Millennium Declaration, the Member States of the United Nations urged the Secretariat to make the best use of its resources in all its endeavors. We very much appreciate that the Secretary-General's report has been written with full recognition of this insttofoßieen wapi7tim ofr ti Tc [1 (r)-1.n (w)

Mr. Chairman,

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