

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Madina B. Jarbussynova, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (24 April 2002)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election to the chairmanship of this Committee and wish all of us the achievement of ever more tangible results under your guidance. My delegation joins in extending a warm welcome to Azerbaijan and Monaco as the new members of the Committee on Information.

I thank Mr. Shashi Tharoor, interim head of the Department of Public Information, for the comprehensive presentation that he made at this session.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation, having considered the reports by the Secretary-General on the main aspects of the United Nations activities in the sphere of information, would like to make a few comments.

We are highly encouraged by the renewed commitment of the Secretary-General to the comprehensive reform of the United Nations system. It goes without saying that reorientation of the UN activities in the field of public information and communications is a key issue at the present session, as this process is an integral part of the whole reform package.

The report of the Secretary-General reflects a rather complicated situation in the Department on Information with regard to numerous mandates and directives entrusted to it by the General Assembly over the last years. However, despite the fact that the Department continues to face critical deficiencies, it is actively responding to the call by the General Assembly to improve its activities in order to strengthen the communication function within the United Nations.

We welcome the intention of Mr. S. Tharoor to review comprehensively the activities of the Department of Public Information which is mandated to promote the fulfillment of the substantive goals of the United Nations. The role of the Department in the twenty-first century should not be underestimated since the Organization is repositioning itself for even greater relevance as an indispensable global institution. We hope that the reorientation of the UN activities in the field of information and communications will contribute significantly to bridging General on

development of the UN web site, the usage of the UN web sites in languages other than English has continued to increase. However, after English, the level of the usage is highest in

the Spanish and French languages. The usage of the sites in Arabic, Chinese and Russian is the lowest as the number of the documents available in these languages is quite few. It is highly important for the DPI to reorganize the management structure for the language web sites so that all the sites could be developed in balanced way. We think that there should be no disparity in staffing for the six languages. My delegation would also like to express our support fo

community in resolving problems relating to the environmental disasters and especially in eliminating the aftermath of nuclear tests the former nuclear site in Semipalatinsk.

The GA resolutions on rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region paved the way for the elaboration of the programme of action, consisting of multidisciplinary projects in the fields of health, environment, economy, humanitarian assistance and provision of information. Work in this field will continue and my Government( )0.6 (G)0 BT /P <</MCID d multiobl( )0.6 k,i