

Mr. Chairman,

Despite various efforts by the DPI, still we note with great concern the continuing widening gap on the information and communications technologies between the developed and the developing countries to the disadvantage of the people of developing countries.

It is our sincere hope that while making great efforts to inform the world about the United Nations, this should also be addressed if our genuine target is the international community

Rationalization of the network of the UNICs

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation continues to remain concerned on the issue of the rationalization of the network of the United Nations Information Centers (UNICs). We have taken due note of the conclusions and the recommendations in the report of the Secretary General on further rationalization with regard to the strategic recalibration of the existing network of the UNIC's since the process cannot go on further at least at the current stage. While regional hubs will continue to play strategic roles, it is equally important that the remaining UNIC's are also enhanced to keep pace with the needs of these hubs as they will no doubt continue to be valuable feeders.

Multilingualism and Public Information

Mr. Chairman,

On multilingualism, we maintain the importance of the equitable treatment and utilization of all official languages of the United Nations in all the outreach activities so that the information is well received by the wider community and not just a section of this global community. The efforts of DPI in this regard need to be encouraged and supported by the international community.

My delegation has noted the continued progress by the DPI towards its effort at strengthening partnerships with radio and television broadcasters with the objective of furnishing more audio-visual products to a broader audience. In this regard, we commend the launching of a new radio programme dedicated to Africa. This is of great significance bearing in mind the

In conclusion we wish to express our support at the constant appeal from DPI for adequate resources from assessed contributions to meet the obligations we have entrusted them with and the tasks we ask them to perform.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.