

Statement by H.E. Dr. Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Per 48 a.B..(er)Derererve

structure the DPI is headed by a person of sub prodigious qualities of leadership, intellect, head, heart and mind as Under Secretary - General Shashi Naroor. His excellent statement this morning bears testimony to my sentiments. I feel a modicum of pride in being counted among his friends which I hope is the case. Our other colleagues in the DPI have also given us ample cause for satisfaction, and to them too, we are beholden.

While I align myself entirely with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Ghana and China, let me make a few additional points.

The renewal of the Department involving major structural overhaul that we have been witnessing over the past years, has, in my delegation's mind, begun to yield positive results. The DPI making the best use of available information and communication technologies, now has a more strategic orientation. Also, its messages are sharper and its targeted audiences are more clearly defined. As a result of its emphasis on a culture of evaluation since 2001, it is now better equipped to measure in clear and concrete terms the results of public information and communication activities. In this regard, I laud the Department's contribution

globe are the real interfaces between the UN and the global community. I must, therefore, once again underscore the imperative need to further strengthen them, particularly in the developing countries, including and perhaps more so, in the DCs. In this context, let me mention that the UNIC in Dhaka has been actively engaged in promoting the UN in this nation of 40 million people. It has been doing this through its multifarious outreach activities and its very functional Bangla website. It has helped us keep alive the public enthusiasm in Bangladesh vis-a-vis this organization, which in turn helps us in the constructive role that my

delegation is able to play overall at the United Nations. It is my view that the Dhaka Centre should have a Director, and soon. Also it be provided adequate and necessary resources. The government will continue to accord the usual support.

It is a matter of concern to the Bangladesh delegations that one of the two weekly Radio Programmes in Bangla has been arbitrarily discontinued, without adequate consultation. As evidenced in the various correspondences received, it is one of the most popular non-official language UN radio programmes, catering to over 220 million in Bangladesh and her neighbouring Indian States. Bangla, the medium through

Perhaps most importantly, and this could be central to all reforms, we have already begun our deliberations on the methodology of choosing Mr. Kofi Annan's successor, the next Secretary-General and others to follow, so that it will be transparent and equitable, that will truly reflect the urges and aspirations of the total membership, and that it will be a process in which we must and will ensure that our voice is heard and listened to.

Through these supremely challenging times the DPI will need to conduct itself fairly, prudently, objectively, impartially, even wisely, sometimes with courage and always with efficiency, and with the ability to respond effectively to the memberships' calls for support and assistance, if and when these are made. These may well appear a tall order, but not taller than that, in our view, can be handled by Sashi Tharoor and his team. We in the Committee will help set the DPI's sights to such heights, guided at all times by the maxim of the mighty Dante Alighieri, Italy's poet of the renaissance, who had urged that man's reach should exceed his grasp for what else were heavens for?

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.