

Statement by H. E. Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, and Chairman of the Group of 77 (24 April 2006)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the commencement of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Information. I would like to express the Group's wish for your success in guiding the Committee in the course of its work and we have every confidence that you and the Bureau will steer the Committee's work with great efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group appreciates the comprehensive and informative presentation made earlier this morning by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, who has provided a useful account of the work undertaken by the Department and the challenges it has faced over the past year. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General and his staff for their efforts to ensure that the Department of Public Information remains cognisant to the changing needs in developing the communications strategy of the Organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group reiterates its position on the role of the Department of Public Information in promoting the work of the United Nations. The DPI assumes the important task of projecting a positive image of the United Nations to the public, of explaining its role and showing the impact of its actions. The G77 and China appreciates the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as sustainable development, decolonization, the dialogue among civilizations and culture of peace and tolerance, the rights of women and children, HIV/AIDS as well development on the African continent. However, it urges the DPI to ensure the pertinence and relevance of each s



The Group attaches the utmost importance to the continuation of the use of traditional media, including both radio and print, in disseminating the main messages of the United Nations