

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for your kind invitation to be here today. I am pleased to be here with you and the other members of the Joint Economic and Technical Committee (JETC) as the

head of the Department of Information (DPI) and wish him all success in the important work ahead.

At the same time, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Under-Secretary-General,

welcome the steps taken by the Department to make the website more accessible to people with disabilities, including people with visual and hearing disabilities. We also take note of the significant progress, outlined in the report that has been made towards reaching parity among the official languages on the website. We encourage the Department to continue these efforts.

Innovation and advances in information technology are important driving forces behind increased productivity and the creation of wealth in many parts of the world. Looking ahead, the Department of Public Information should strengthen further its efforts to meet the concerns of the Developing countries in the field of information and communication technology. The Department of Public Information can play an important role in bridging the digital divide and helping developing nations gain access to these new technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

The public outreach work of the United Nations is of great importance. Targeted and effective communication is a key tool for the United Nations in promoting global awareness and greater understanding of the UN and its work in priority areas. My delegation looks forward to working with all members of this Committee in a constructive manner to improve the effectiveness of our work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.