

Statement by
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At the General Debate of
the 30th session of the United Nations Committee on Information

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that the main pillar of the Department of Public Information's policies and activities lies on its close cooperation with the Committee on Information. Continued development of this partnership is essential as DPI continues to play a pivotal role as the public voice of the United Nations in helping strengthen the image of the United Nations throughout the world.

My delegation expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Department of Public Information in promoting and advancing the work of the United Nations on important issues such as UN reform, attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development, the dialogue among civilizations and culture of peace, respect for religious, cultural and historical values. We are of the view that

activities with a view to promoting the idea of a just and more effective world information and communication order. To achieve this noble goal, the Committee should increase its efforts to formulate an effective and efficient UN information policy that would ensure a greater understanding and respect among peoples belonging to various societies, cultures and religions.

- 4) In the world today, developing countries are victims of an unjust, inequitable, partial and monopolized world of media that, by taking advantage of their modern communication technology and strong financial structures, are continuously trying to distort the facts and realities relating to these countries. It is our sincere hope that DPI could boost its endeavors to take solid measures to help developing countries address this serious challenge and continue to serve as a fair and balanced voice for both developing and developed countries. The Department of Public Information should enhance its technological infrastructure on a continuous basis with a view to improve its activities in the field of public information and communications, especially in the areas that are of special interest to developing countries.
- 5) We share this view with most of the Member States that the increasing negative political and media discourse in certain parts of the world targeting religions and their believers is a matter of grave concern for all and a serious threat to the international peace and security. My delegation deplores all acts of insult and incitement against religions and their sacred principles and precepts. We along with many Member States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Condemn, in the strongest term, the release of the blasphemous film "Fitna" which is a clear insult not only to the belief of more than 1 billion Muslims but also a serious threat to the stability of many societies in the world. We commend the action of the international media in turning down the broadcast of that film and fully support calls for exploring the possibility of an international instrument on the respect for religions and elimination of all forms of intolerance and defamation. We encourage the UN Secretariat, especially DPI, to increase their efforts to help promote respect for all cultures, religions and civilizations.
- 6) We commend The United Nations Information Centers (UNICs) for their valuable efforts in mobilizing public opinion and playing an important role in conveying the messages on United Nations activities to the peoples in their host countries. We also take note of the report of the Secretary-General on UNICs contained in document A/AC.198/2008/3 in which he has

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of adequate resources, and careful attention to the geographical, cultural, social and economic characters of different regions are among important elements that should be taken into account in this regard. Moreover, we would like to emphasize that any decision on reorganization of UNICs must be made in close consultation with the host countries.

- 7) We have always welcomed the efforts of DPI in ensuring multilingualism in all its activities. In our opinion, the pursuance of true multilingualism means promotion, protection and preservation of diversity of languages and cultures globally. To ensure that the Organization is keeping on using a wide array of media and languages to deliver its messages to the people of the world, it should continue to extend these activities