

Statement by the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (22 April 2002)

Mr. Chairman

I would like at the outset to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau of the Committee on Information on your reelection this year to steer the work of the Committee during its twenty-fourth session. We pledge the delegation of Egypt's full cooperation with you and the other delegations in order to crown the work of this important session with success and achieve the positive results that we all desire to enhance the information policies of the United Nations and to support the capabilities and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information in carrying out its valuable activities. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, the Interim Head of DPI, for the efforts he is undertaking and for the comprehensive presentation he provided to the Committee.

Mr. Chairman

The delegation of Egypt has considered the six reports presented by the Secretary-General on the various aspects of the UN's information activities. While it associates itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the G-77 and which addressed all the issues that reflect the priorities of the Member States of the Group concerning the activities of the organization in matters related to information, the delegation of Egypt would like for its part to address a number of specific points in which it finds importance in highlighting:

First, the Committee on Information managed during its last twenty-third session to adopt a comprehensive and balanced resolution reflecting the broad consensus among Member States on the various fields that must receive priority in the information activities of the UN

While we noticed that these findings are confined solely to those aspects where the performance of the Department can be improved, as described in paragraph 9 of the report, we also affirm that addressing the substance of the report should not aim to restrict the activities of the Department, discontinue some of the programs it is carrying out or withhold the financing required for them; on the contrary, addressing the report should result in the reaffirmation by this august Committee of its support for those programs that we all place

training program for Palestinian journalists and we look forward to it continuing — and even enhancing — its efforts in this arena during the forthcoming period.