

Mr. President:

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like, first at all, to express our satisfaction for the ability displayed until now to the work of the Committee of Information under your adroit leadership. We are convinced that during this session, you will guide us towards a productive debate and an exchange of views that would favor a better understanding of the items related to the scope of public information of the United Nations. I would like also, to take this opportunity to extend our gratefulness to the other members of the Bureau of the Committee.

Likewise, we would like to thank the Interim Head of the Department of Public Information, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, for his very complete presentation and, at the same time, to express to his team our satisfaction for their efficiency and cooperative spirit in dealing with the different and complex topics that are under their responsibility, as well as the efforts made towards the incorporation of new innovations in the development of their activities.

Mr. President,

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so this could be undertaken in an appropriate manner. Recently, a Resolution was approved by which it convenes a "Meeting of the General Assembly to examine the role of information technologies and communications in development." The countries members of the Group of 77 and China give a great significance to the celebration of this meeting because during the same, the means to close the digital divide will be examined and the opportunities that offer the digital technology in the process of globalization of the incipient society of information

matters of technology of information and the communications have not even been able to be introduced in vast areas of developing countries, thus restricting the progress of important sectors of human development. The so called technological gap between the rich and the poor countries that prevents the balanced development of an irreversible process, such as the one experimented in this field, follows — unchangeable — an ascendant road. At the same time that in the problems of distances and communications are reduced in the world, the digital divide grows. The personal computers are a good example. After initially suffering a radical change to transform themselves in portable computers, once more they are at a point where they will experiment important innovations, such as the one to be converted into digital screens or the incorporation of remote controls, among many changes, which will facilitate the every day tasks that occupy men in the complex and modern society of today.

