

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Information, Ambassador Mihnea Motoc (24 April 2006)

Mr. Under-Secretary-General, Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor, and through him to the Department of Public Information, for the excellent cooperation extended to me, and to the members of the Bureau of the Committee on Information, during the past year.

Presiding over this committee for the second year, I am comforted by the knowledge that the Department is led by someone who is not only known for his vision and leadership, but also for his unwavering commitment to the ideals of the United Nations. This Committee looks forward to working with you, Mr. Tharoor, and with your Department, to build upon the achievements realized by DPI over the last few years.

I am also encouraged by the growing working relationship between DPI and the Committee, which over the years has evolved into a solid partnership. Even though the Committee meets only once a year, as members of the Bureau we are in contact with DPI throughout the year, and are able to convey to the Department the views of Member States on issues considered

The World Summit, held in September 2005, produced a clear roadmap and set the stage for the comprehensive reform of the Organization. After piecemeal reform, and some ad hoc repair and maintenance action, fundamental changes are finally in the offing. As the President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Traian Basescu, pointed out in his statement at the 2005 World Summit, leaders of 191 member states concurred on a common vision not only to strengthen the United Nations as the centerpiece of multilateral architecture, but to reengineer it to lead in an ever - more diverse and promising world. "This global agreement means that we share in common the deep belief that there can be an Organization shielding the entire humankind and providing to the needs and aspirations of all of it."

We all agree that DPI is the voice through which this sense of optimism and common purpose must be conveyed. The Committee on Information, the legislative body dealing with public information, is an integral part of this renewal. To be an effective partner of DPI, the Committee itself must also consider ways and means to strengthen its role, especially in the context of UN reform.

In my view, there are three ways Member States can strengthen DPI's hand. First, it can help

