

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations (25 April 2006)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to extend to you, at the outset of the works of the Committee on Information, my heart-felt congratulations for your election as chairman of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Information and I also congratulate members of the Committee Bureau.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China that contained the framework of the priorities and concerns of the Member States of the Group in respect to UN policies, activities and priorities in the field of information and communications.

Mr. Chairman,

We listened yesterday to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Mr. Shashi Tharoor in which he reviewed the role of the organization in the field of communications and information and the strategic outlook for the future. I would like, in this respect, to extend

The world today, in truth, is undergoing a critical phase full of disputes, conflicts and challenges that have cast their shadows not only on states but also on their peoples. They further affect all walks of life and enhance the methods the governments and peoples are adopting to encounter the dangers of spreading pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and recently the avian flu. This is not

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First: In respect of the Secretary-General's report on the rationalization of the network of the United Nations information centres, we commend the reallocation of three director-level posts by DPI to centres located in Cairo, Mexico City and Pretoria. We also commend the specific regional responsibilities carried out by these centres that, undoubtedly, would contribute to enhancing the joint and strategic work with and inside UN information centres existing in neighbouring countries for more efficient and effective implementation of the United Nations information policy in the three above-mentioned regions. We further welcome the efforts aiming at enhancing the use of the information and communication technologies to speedily and efficiently convey the information message to all UN information centres.

Undoubtedly, It is of high importance to allocate fixed and additional resources out of the UN programme budget to promote the capabilities of the information centres to effectively carry out their duties and tasks corresponding with their status so as to reflect the effective presence of the United Nations to the average citizen, students and researchers all over the world, particularly in developing countries.

Second: In respect of the report on assessing the effectiveness of United Nations public information products and activities based on the results of a three-year evaluation project, Egypt would like to emphasize its appreciation for the efforts exerted by DPI in terms of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Information during the last three years on ensuring a culture of evaluation for the impact of the programs and activities of DPI.

On our part, we encourage the continuation of the work of the Committee on Information.

Fourth: In respect of the report on the recent developments and the progress towards parity among the official languages on the UN website, the delegation of Egypt has always called for achieving multilingual parity in a strict and genuine way. In appreciation of the effort exerted in