

Statement by Mr. Estevão Umba Alberto, First Secretary (Press), Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations (1 May 2007)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to welcome you as Chairman and also thank the Secretary-General for his report on the activities carried out by the Department of Public Information during the past year.

We would also like to join others in congratulating Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka for his appointment and for his detailed and excellent statement before this Committee yesterday. Our appreciation goes also to other newly elected members of Bureau and to the entire staff of the Department for the way they have carried out their tasks.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Pakistan, on behalf of G-77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The challenge of creating and disseminating accurate and meaningful information that will be heard by every corner in our interconnected world is, indeed, daunting.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-

dissemination of information of the work of our organisation in the world and particularly in Africa.

While we commend the fruitful work undertaken by the Desk for Portugal in the UN regional centre in Brussels, the Portuguese Speaking African Countries cannot just rely on such services. The special needs of these five developing countries can more effectively be addressed through a centre in Luanda. The local communities do not have the same new technologies such as print media, radio and internet, as compared with developed countries. This is a question of access to the means of information which many countries like ours still have a tremendous deficit.

We recognize that the United Nations must reach many levels of audience, from those with state of the art communications techniques to those which have yet to achieve literacy. This spectrum of conditions is represented not only by individual nations, but also by audiences within the same nation. The need to develop different media for different audiences is clear.

Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that yesterday I was very encouraged by the words of His Excellency Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Akasaka that we should have patience; which to my interpretation, they only mean one thing: a "green light" inside the tunnel. We have to be gracious for these words since this was the first time they were pronounced.

