

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jiro Kodera, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (1 May 2007)**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship. I am confident that this session will be highly productive under your able stewardship.

I would also like to express my sincere congratulations to Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, the new Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. I am quite certain that, with his rich experience in multilateral diplomacy, Mr. Akasaka is well prepared to successfully steer the work of the Department of Communications and Public Information. I would also like to express our full support for the strategic approach to attain the goals of the Department presented by Mr. Akasaka in his briefing on Monday.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General's reports have provided extensive information on DPI's work over the past year. We particularly support the strategic use of UN Information Centres in the world at large, along with the utilization of new information technology to enhance the efficiency of DPI's work and development of the UN website. These undertakings have surely contributed to the effective and efficient use of the limited resources of the Department. We appreciate that DPI is making even greater efforts to advance reform under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

Contest and a Photo Exhibition of Japanese UN Staff. We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for mentioning these programs in his recent report on

