

Statement by the delagation of Spain, on behalf of the European Union (22 April 2002)

countries. ICTs are not to be considered in isolation, but as part an parcel of an overall

Our group gives full support for the ongoing reform process of the Department of Public Information, warmly welcoming the report on the reorientation. It builds on ideas we have put forward over the past years, regarding performance, effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard there are fundamental and important questions that require a clear answer by the Member States.

The European Union understands that the report of the Secretary General on the reorientation of activities in the field of public information and communication is an important part of the comprehensive review of DPI to be presented at the 57th session. The Committee of Information will have to bear in mind that review of DPI is a work in progress, to be followed up during the 57th session.

The EU looks forward to provide feedback to the review report of the DPI. Let me, for the sake of clarity, briefly summarize the preliminary ideas the EU wishes to table for the reorientation process. In our view a culture of public information and communications should permeate all levels and all Departments of the Organization and DPI should:

- Use the Millennium Declaration as a crystal clear guide, to orient its work toward major issues.
- Work primarily through intermediaries.
- Move towards a new " evaluation culture " of increased performance management.
- Rely on reaching the public through existing external media to a greater degree than at present.

Our group sharing the "importance of multilingualism in the United Nations public relations and information activities", underlined by Resolution 56/262 of 15 February 2002, wishes to express its view that all the possible efforts to keep the plurality represented by the adequate use of the six UN official languages and also, to the extent possible, in other available languages, in its external relations and in its public information outputs should be displayed.

The audio-visual sector is a crucial one. We want to bring to the attention of the Committee the close practical cooperation that is going on between the EU and DPI mainly in the audio-visual sector with the regular weekly broadcast of all UN TV programming through Europe by Satellite. This helps ensure that Europeans are better informed about the UN's role and activities in the world.

Our group emphasizes that UN radio and Television should take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years (satellite platforms, ICT technology, internet etc.). In this regard we think that it will be useful to ask the Secretary General to study the feasibility of establishing a UN global satellite TV network.

Other issues as the United Nations information centres and United Nations field offices, or the way DPI should use traditional means of communication, radio, television and publications, warrant as well detailed consideration.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman I reiterate that European Union and the countries aligned with this statement are looking forward to the debate within the Committee on Information in the usual

spirit of co-operation and consensus aimed at finding the right answers to make the choices we have to do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.