

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of 77 And China (26 April 2004)

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on the exemplary way you led the work of this Committee last year. We are confident that your expertise and wisdom will continue to contribute to the success of the work of the Committee this year as well. I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the full support of the Group of 77 and China in leading the work of this session to a successful outcome.

I would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, UnderSecretary-General for Communications and Public Information, for presenting the reports of the Secretary-General

The Committee on Information is crucial in ensuring the dissemination of information on a wider scale and in a balanced way. We hope that the restructured and reactivated DPI will be able to elaborate coherent communication strategies to that effect.

The Group of 77 and China strongly maintains that the challenge of the DPI is not only to ensure a wider outreach of the communication strategies but also to contribute to the concretization of the UN goals and objectives as set out in the Millennium Declaration and in the Medium-Term Plan.

The work of DPI would, therefore, be guided to achieving these goals and objectives, in particular to promoting priority development issues such as poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, dialogue among civilizations and cultures, sustainable development and the needs of African countries.

Mr. Chairman, The Group of 77 and China stresses that the UN Information Centres play a significant role in disseminating information, in promoting public awareness of and mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations.

The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Secretary-General's report on the rationalization of the network of United Nations Information Centres (A/AC.198/2004/3). In this regard, the Group believes it is premature to present proposals on further regionalization. Enough time sh

We attach the utmost importance to the information policies and communication strategies regarding peacekeeping operations. Many Member States, most of them from our Group, are strongly committed to these operations and even endure the loss of their nationals in pursuing the noble goal of international peace. Therefore, we are gravely concerned about the "information gap" that exists between the new realities and success of peacekeeping operations and the perceptions the public have, as stated in the Secretary-General's report A/58/694. The closing of this gap is one of the ways to "concretize the UN goals and objectives", and a measure of the success of DPI.

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