

Statement by Mrs. Radhia Msuya, Head of the United Nations Section in the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United
Republic of Tanzania (28 April 2004)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is delighted to see you presiding over the work of the Committee on Information and would wish to pledge our full support and co-operation in discharging your duties. Allow me to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Tharoor, Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information for presenting the Reports of the Secretary General.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The United Republic of Tanzania has always supported initiatives to reorganize and review activities of the Department of Information, so as to enable the Department to implement its mandate in full and efficiently. The proposed reforms should however be undertaken carefully so as not to undermine the standing of the UN in the eyes of the world citizens, particularly those United Nations on important areas including economic and social development, peace and

security, human rights, poverty eradication, debt relief, health particularly HIV/AIDS, education, gender issues, children's rights, environmental issues, as well as many other issues of relevance.

My delegation therefore shares the views expressed by many that the idea of establishing Regional Hubs should be applied carefully. Due consideration should be accorded to the specific needs of different countries, particularly in countries with underdeveloped communication infrastructure and systems, otherwise these changes would jeopardise the objectives of the Committee and the mandate of the Department and implementing agencies. It is recommended that the approach to this proposal should be on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania calls for the retention of the United Nations Information Centre at Dar-as-Salaam for the following reasons:

1. The operational and administrative costs of the Centre are relatively low due to the rent-free premises offered by the Government. The current staff includes one professional at P-3 level and five local staff

2. The Center, which includes a library, is conveniently located, which makes it easily accessible to the public. Students, teachers, researchers, journalists and members of the public use the Library.
3. There is no other United Nations office, which offers similar service. The Centre's Library contains information materials and publications from various United Nations agencies such as the UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, FAO, UNCTAD, IMF, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA and the World Bank, among many others. It is the only place in Tanzania where one can access a collection of information materials and publications of the United Nations under one roof.
4. The Dar-es-Salaam Centre has very good working relations with the host country and

to better serve the community. At a time when the multilateral character of the organization is an issue of public concern and interest, it is best to retain the center in Dar-es-Salaam.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.