

## **Statement by H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations (1 May 2007)**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, allow me to commend you and the Bureau officers, on behalf of the Cuban delegation, for your election as Chairman of the Committee on Information.

We would like to thank Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, for his detailed and comprehensive report on the work carried out by the Department of Public Information.

Cuba endorses the statement of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

the word Internet bears absolutely no meaning.

Information being disseminated from the developed world is often misleading, false, distorting and ignorant of the news and events taking place in developing countries; and they even fabricate news to divert the attention of the international community. Thus, it is increasingly important to create a New World Order of Information.

In a globalized world where a handful of transnational companies have the monopoly over information flow, along with dependence on increasingly powerful advertisers, "freedom of information" has become an empty phrase.

With the political will of governments, international cooperation and a minimum amount of the resources that the developed world squanders in publicity, overconsumption and the arms race, Internet and the dissemination of information that could serve as a means to the realization of a cultural and educational revolution, which promotes knowledge and fosters education, culture, cooperation, development and solidarity.

The developing world should have a special treatment in the United Nations Information System. We consider that the United Nations Information Systems spread through the world, particularly in developed countries, should play a more effective role in the dissemination of balanced information, taking into account the needs of the audience which the message is aimed at. The use of broadcast mechanisms, such as the radio, should continue to be promoted as a means to contribute to informing the vast illiterate populations that exist in the countries of the South.

Despite its modest resources, our country has contributed to this objective. Cuba has successfully implemented the Literacy Program "Yo sí puedo" (Yes, I can) in 15 countries,

which has been honored and acknowledged by UNESCO as an effective program. This program uses audio-visual aids and the new information and communication technologies to broaden the scope and effectiveness of teaching materials, especially through widespread use of the radio.

Mr. Chairman,

In our current capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, I must stress that the issues related to information and communication technologies have an important place in the Movement's agenda. That was vastly proven in the agreement adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the 119 members of the Non-

On last 5 August 2006, the US Government's Office of Cuba Broadcasts (OCB) announced the use of a new G-1 aircraft, with license plate N820CB, leased to the company Phoenix Air, in order to considerably increase television broadcasts against Cuba, from one to six afternoons a week. To broadcast from this aircraft, the US Congress increased the budget by \$10 million dollars.

Last December, the OCB leased airspace for 6 months in two Miami-based stations, at a cost of \$377,500 dollars to broadcast Radio and TV "Martí" to Cuba; television station WPMF-38, property of TVC Broadcasting, which broadcasts Azteca America and Radio Mambí WAQI 710AM, from Univisión. This action violates US laws, which prohibit broadcasting within the US programs intended for overseas audiences.

Each week, US-based stations broadcast to Cuba more than 2,138 hours of radio and television through 32 different frequencies of medium and short waves, FM and TV. Between 283 and 314 hours a day of programs that have nothing to do with balanced and objective information are generated from them.

