

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my delegation's sincere felicitations to Mr. Kyo Masaka on his appointment as the Director -Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, and assure him of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

I also wish to pay tribute to Mr. Shashi Maroor, for his excellent performance as Director -Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information during his tenure.

I associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of the PRC.

Mr. Chairman,

It is imperative that the voice of the biteditions as the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world be heard in a clear and effective manner. Its aims and activities, as envisaged in the Charter, should be brought to the attention of the peoples across the globe. In this context, we underscore the importance of the role of the Department of Public Information (DI) as the voice of the biteditions. To strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, we believe that this Department should provide all people

appreciate the Department's past activities especially promoting issues of importance to the international community such as sustainable development, decolonization, dialogue among civilizations and culture of peace and tolerance, rights of women and children, HIV/AIDS. We therefore encourage the Department to vigorously continue working in these areas.

The Department of Public Information should also contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications. This requires a strong and electronically well-equipped department. To this end, we encourage the Department, among other things, to continuously enhance its technological infrastructure.

Multilingualism is an important factor in the outreach activities of the biteditions. However, in promoting multilingualism it is necessary to fully take into account the number of audiences and their real need in a cost-efficient manner.



considerably contribute to better understanding and foster friendship among nations. As stipulated in the General Assembly's resolution A/RES/56/6, "the United Nations should continue to promote and strengthen the culture of dialogue among civilizations". We hope that the Secretary-General will save no effort to promote and strengthen this important internationally consensus-based idea on a continuous basis.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least, I wish to refer to the importance of the United Nations Information Centers (UNICs). We fully concur with the Secretary General's views contained in document A/AC.198/2007/2 that "the United Nations information centers are key to the work of the Department of Public Information, giving its global work a local accent". We believe that these centers are, indeed, the real interface between the United Nations and the international community, and if well-equipped, they can tremendously contribute to enhance the public image of the Organization, mainly in many developing countries that lack easy access to modern communication system and information technology. Thus, we request the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to address the insufficient financial resources that negatively affect the overall performance of the United Nations Information Centers. We are thankful to the United Nations Information Center in Tehran for its considerable performance—despite the severe budget constraint — during the past years. In this connection, we support the call for allocation of adequate resources to ensure the effective and efficient functioning and strengthening of all UNICs, including, the UNIC-Tehran.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I assure you of my delegation's full support and constructive cooperation to achieve a successful outcome in this annual meeting of the Committee.

Thank you.