

Statement by Mr. Gerardo Diaz Bartolome, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations (24 April 2012)

Mr. Chairman,

The Argentine Delegation wishes to thank you, the Bureau and the Secretariat for the work carried out, wishing you the best of success and renewing our full willingness to contribute to the work of this 34th session of the Committee on Information.

We would like to express our recognition to the work done by Mr. Maher Nasser, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. We appreciate his commitment and dedication in discharging his duties, as shown, on this occasion, by his clear and comprehensive presentation. Our recognition also goes to former Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, with our best wishes of success in his future responsibilities.

We do commend the work made by the team of UN Television and UN Radio, as well as by the authorities and staff of the Library and the UN Information Centers for their dedication in the significant work they carry out.

Mr. Chairman,

Argentina fully associates itself with what has been expressed by Chile on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), as well as Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and wishes to make following comments in its national capacity.

Argentina is grateful for the reports submitted by the Secretary-General on the Activities of the Department of Public Information contained in documents A/AC.198/2012/2, 3 and 4, concerning strategic comm

Nevertheless, despite the force of these statistics, we are concerned that the contents
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provisional initial stage. Editorial criteria, length and frequency of existing press releases could be modified so as to make room for new teams to start elaborating the press releases in one of the other official languages, according to schemes to be creatively determined. There are geographical representation criteria that may help in the process as well as the statistics available to the Department, which constitute an objective source of information to elaborate and guide decisions in this regards, at the same time that they confirm the trends and needs of the public.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards traditional media, Argentina commends the work done by the team of the United Nations Radio in Spanish and their important contribution to the success evidenced by the increase of the United Nations Radio and Television services as a whole. As it has already been said, we consider it very important to continue employing traditional media in conveying the message of the Organization as they constitute the primary means of communication in most developing countries.

We also celebrate the significant progress made in the process of digitization and urge the Department to continue with this task, while specially recognizing the work of the Library staff for their efforts for the benefit of mankind in preserving the heritage of us all, in particular the several training courses and close contact with depository libraries.

To conclude, in a year of intensive communication activities as evidenced, besides the aspects already described, by the several campaigns and technical innovations, we would like to extend our best wishes of success to all those working in the Department of Public Information. Our special recognition goes to all of them for their permanent disposition, willingness and openness to enquiries and requests from Member States in a framework of transparency, efficiency and high professionalism.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.