



BANGLADESH

Please check against delivery

Statement
by
Ms Sharke Chaman Khan
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN
at the General Debate of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Information
on April 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me begin by congratulating Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili of the Permanent Mission of Georgia, on his election as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Allow me to acknowledge his predecessor Mr. Irakli Chikovani of the Permanent Mission of Georgia, for his contribution to the committee.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation thanks Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, the Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, for his comprehensive presentation on the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) before us yesterday. We extend our deep appreciation to him for his continued wise leadership of the department and to all the staffs of the department for their efforts for carrying out their tasks efficiently. We attach great importance to the activities and performance of the DPI for its being the strategic communicator of Organization's activities and concerns to achieve the greatest public impact.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would however like to make some additional comments of our concern.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is happy to note the close cooperation between DPI and DPKO & DFS in projecting the work of UN peacekeepers. As a major troop contributing country, Bangladesh attaches great importance to publicizing the UN's this splendid endeavour in peacekeeping and peacebuilding worldwide. In the past, we urged DPI to do more to publicize the work of peacekeepers and to focus on stories incorporating a national angle. We believe that DPI has much more to work in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

We have listened with interest USG Akasaka's proposal for Language Days at the UN. We hope these observances will help showcase the use of all languages – not just the

official ones – in the work of the UN and outside. We should not forget the need to promote and protect the mother languages around the world. In this connection, we reiterate our call for greater DPI involvement in the observance of International Mother Language Day on 21st February each year. As one of the original sponsors of the UNESCO resolution on International Mother Language Day – which later was endorsed by the General Assembly - Bangladesh attaches utmost importance to not in mere a formal, public observance of the event, but to a meaningful attempt to recognize the importance of all mother languages as well as their protection and promotion. Bangladesh also calls upon fellow members of this Committee to incorporate in the draft COI resolution a call for DPI to observe Mother Language Day in a befitting manner.

In this context, we extend our congratulations to DPI for promoting national languages of those countries where UNICs are located. We have noted with appreciation the fact that most UNICs now host websites in one or more local languages. We recognize that UNIC Dhaka, Bangladesh has played a pioneering role in promoting Bangla language on its website and through various print products. UNIC Dhaka has also helped create a network of libraries that cater to the needs of University and higher-level students. Also, in this connection, the Government of Bangladesh encourages DPI to look for local partners for the issuance of the revamped UN Chronicle magazine in languages other than the official ones. My mission stands ready to actively support your search for such partners for a Bangla language version of UN Chronicle.

I may mention here that today, around 250 million Bangla speakers are living in and outside Bangladesh. We would like the UN to focus more to cater the needs of this large population.

Mr. Chairman,

Another area where Bangladesh is willing to support the UN work and cooperate with DPI is climate change. As one of the countries directly bearing the brunt of global warming to which it has no contribution, Bangladesh, being the possible worst victim, seeks greater international cooperation to support developing countries facing similar problems. The conscience of the world's powerbrokers won't be stirred unless DPI helps spotlight the cases of such countries. In the wake of the setbacks suffered at Copenhagen, there has been a perceptively cooling off of DPI's efforts in the area of climate change. We think DPI should not only continue focusing on climate change, but, in fact, redouble its efforts, particularly by highlighting the challenges faced by resource-constrained countries. A particular activity that we can suggest pertains to DPI's UNifeed programme. By procuring video footage, either from its own local sources, or through UN system partners, UNifeed should be able to tell the story of small island countries and of coastal states about the impending crisis facing them unless there is concrete global action to counter it.

Before I conclude Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate once again our support for the DPI and reassure you of our fullest cooperation in steering committee's work to a successful conclusion.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.