

Постоянное  
представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при Организации  
Объединённых Наций



Permanent Mission  
of the Russian  
Federation  
to the United Nations

136E 67th Street  
New York, NY 10065

Unofficial translation

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**Statement by Igor D. Evdokimov  
Representative of the Russian Federation  
at the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Committee on Information  
(New York, April 26 - May 7, 2010)**

April 28, 2010

Mr. President,

First of all, let me thank you and the Bureau for the efficient organization of work of the Committee and to express appreciation to UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Akasaka for his report (A/AC.198/2010/2, 3 and 4).

In general, we have a positive account of the work by the Department of Public Information, and emphasize its efforts to develop strategic communications services and news services, as well as a dynamic advocacy.

Mr. President,

As is known, in 2009, the reform of the United Nations information system was continued. Effective redistribution of the DPI resources allowed greater use of modern information and communication and multimedia technologies, which ultimately expanded the boundaries of the target audience. We expect to maintain these positive trends, provided that further steps in this direction will be pursued through regular consultations with member countries of the Committee and the staff of the Department. In our opinion, the most effective outreach to the general public about the UN activities requires a balanced approach that would use for this purpose a combination of traditional media and new communication and information technologies – a bias to the so-called "New media" may be detrimental to the "traditional" media can be a disservice to the Organization.

Mr. President,

In 2009, the DPI management remained committed to the established model of strategic planning of its activities: the setting of communication priorities, followed by a detailed outline of media campaigns. In this regard, quite rightly were again accentuated the theme of maintaining international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and international law in combating racism and xenophobia. Such substantive agenda of the Department's activity gains the utmost support on our side.

Dear Colleagues,

In just a few days, on May 9, Russia, along with the rest of the civilized world will celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory over fascism. Special events on this date, will also be held here at the UN headquarters.

As is known, on March 2, by the initiative of the Russian Federation, the resolution of the UN GA "Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War" was adopted with an unprecedented number of co-sponsors – 58. Thus, Member States of the Organization have confirmed that without the Victory in 1945 it is impossible to imagine the modern system of international relations, the pivotal role in which is righteously played by the UN.

However, we regret to note that some countries still continue to pander to those who seek to revise the history of the bloodiest war in the human history and give Nazi collaborators an aura of heroism and an image of national patriots. I would like to reiterate that this policy is incompatible with the commitments made by these countries in accordance with the UN Charter. Moreover, the attempts to turn accomplices of Nazism into heroes are contrary to one of the major objectives of the Charter of the Organization - to save succeeding generations from the horrors of another war.

We believe that the DPI activities dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day are an important element of work. We would welcome the continuation by the Department of the work in keeping with its mandate to encourage the remembrance of the Holocaust, educational programs and recognition of the role soldiers – liberators of Nazi concentration camps. Beyond any doubt, the Holocaust is not only a tragedy of the Jewish people, it is also a human tragedy, inscribed in the common historical context. We would like to thank the DPI for their participation in the presentation of the "Holocaust in the territory of USSR" encyclopedia, which was held at UN Headquarters on March 9 this year, organized by the Permanent Mission of Russia to the UN, and the American Forum of the World Congress of the Russian-speaking Jewry.

Mr. President,

It is also worrying that despite the national legislation of many countries the ideas of intolerance and xenophobia are expanding rapidly through the global web and infect minds and souls of its most mass audience – the youth. In this regard, a series of seminars entitled "Cyberthreat: danger in cyberspace", were held in New York in summer 2009 within the Unlearning Intolerance campaign, can be regarded as a successful start of a commendable initiative, which requires further development.

We note the active work of the Department on the information coverage of the Middle East settlement issues and, in particular, the Moscow meeting of the Quartet in March. To Russia, as a permanent member of UN Security Council and a sponsor of the Middle East peace process, this matter is a priority.

We welcome the work of the DPI to promote climate change agenda, to counteract the effects of the global crisis - financial, economic and food, as well to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The latter topic is particularly relevant in view of the upcoming September 20-22 Summit in New York devoted to it. In this context, I would like to note that Russia's contribution to the development purposes in 2009 amounted to 800 million U.S. dollars.

In the anniversary year for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the demand is high for the efforts of the Department of Public Information to duly cover on the issues of disarmament and nonproliferation. As we know, the UN Conference will be held to review the NPT at the headquarters on May 3 - 28 of, in which the Russian Federation will take an active part. On the sidelines of the conference there will be deployed a Russian exhibition dedicated to the country's contribution to the international non-proliferation efforts, there will be a presentation of the "NPT: how to strengthen the regime" White Book.

Less than a month ago -- on April 8 -- a truly historic event happened at the disarmament track: the signing of Russian-American Treaty on Measures for Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. That has not only balanced the interests of Russia and the United States in this area, but the new treaty strengthens the global strategic stability, and in the case of its ratification the whole international community will win, of course.

In the context of the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures declared for 2010 it is particularly important to highlight the topics of inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue. We look forward to the further discussions on that here at the UN site and among the religious leaders of the Russian initiative to establish an Advisory Board of Religions under the auspices of the UN.

Dear Colleagues,

We welcome the Department's efforts to promote UN activities among the youth. We note with satisfaction the participation of Russian activists in the first conference of the Global Model United Nations ", held in Geneva in August 2009 on the theme of " Millennium Development Goals in the Millennium Declaration: eradication of poverty of the lower billion on the poverty scale."

Russia has its own national experience of Model United Nations. On April 12- 16 the 11th International Model United Nations was held at the Moscow State Institute of International Affairs with the participation of over 500 young people from 30 countries. We are grateful to the UN Secretary-General for sending his welcoming address to the forum.

Mr. President,

I would like to raise some information and technology aspects of the DPI activity. In particular, we note the progress in the implementation of multilingualism of UN website, the interface of which has become much more informative and easier. We are interested in a speedy translation into Russian of other UN system organizations' Internet portals.

We welcome the Department's efforts to develop radio and television broadcasting, to digitalize photo and video archives of the Organization.

While expressing an overall satisfaction by the work of the Russian service of the UN Radio we cannot ignore the fact of the January termination of its broadcasting transmission to Moscow, the Moscow region and St. Petersburg through the "World Radio Network, as a consequence of the non-renewal of a contract by the DPI with the radio station. As a result, the Department of Press and Information of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia together with the Permanent Mission of Russia to the UN, and the UN Information Centre in Moscow, managed to get the consent of the Department of Public Information to sign a contract with the World Radio Network company, which will fully restore the UN Radio broadcasting in Russian to Moscow, the Moscow region and St. Petersburg.

As a result of our efforts a decision was taken to resume cooperation between the Russian UN radio service and one of the largest public radio stations, the Voice of Russia. We expect that the broadcast of the UN Radio programs at the Voice of Russia will resume in the near future after some technical issues are resolved.

We are supportive of all forms of information support for Russian-language UN activities. We note in this regard, the effective work of the Russian UN News Centre in New York, which has proved itself to be one of the major and reliable sources of relevant information about the activities of the Organization. We are interested in having this news portal in Russian supplied with adequate resources.

We support the Department's initiative to establish within the framework of the celebration of the International Mother Language Day (celebrated on February 21) the days of each of the

six official UN languages. We propose June 6 - the birthday of our great poet Alexander Pushkin as a day to celebrate the Russian Language.

We welcome the establishment of a UN Communication Group at the country-level - the Russian Federation and its contribution to the issue of the bimonthly newsletter "UN in Russia", in the English and Russian languages.

We support the efforts of DPI to strengthen its peripheral activity. We note the creative and proactive efforts of the UN Information Center in Moscow. Commendable are the efforts of the Information Center to promote the agenda of human rights, indigenous peoples, non-proliferation of WMD, the remembrance of Holocaust victims, etc.

Mr. President,

We welcome the efforts of the DPI to develop partnerships with NGOs, and involvement of other segments of civil society. As the practice shows, the annual DPI / NGO Conference can associate non-governmental organizations to expand their contacts, to raise awareness about the work of both the UN and the partner organizations in other parts of the world.

Mr. President,

In order to maximize the effectiveness of the Committee on Information we would suggest as a "food for thought" the next option of the procedural optimization of our joint activity: to draft a final resolution of the Committee (the practice shows that it is a highly complex and often very lengthy process) to instruct an ad hoc group to which the most interested States and formed geographical groups or groups of interests could delegate their representatives, the "fine-tuning" of the text and the approval of the draft resolution would be conducted at the final plenary meeting of the Committee; the freed-up precious time could be used for a more extensive interactive dialogue with representatives of specialized agencies, UN programs and funds, which could be invited to share their outreach "best practice" in their areas of competence (eg, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, etc.) .

In conclusion, we wish to reassure you that our delegation is set to continue constructive cooperation with you, members of the Bureau, the Member States of the Committee and all the staff of the DPI to improve UN activities in the information area.

Thank you.