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**Remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Alison Smale
Chinese Language Day event, New York
20 April 2018**

Huan ying!

Thank you for inviting me to this event, organized by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. My thanks to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, and the Coordinator for Multilingualism, and to the Deputy Permanent Representative of China, Mr. WU Haitao. My thanks also to all colleagues and distinguished guests in the room.

Although certainly what brings us together today is a celebration of the Chinese language, I think you would all agree with me that in celebrating Chinese we are also celebrating the importance of multilingualism.

Chinese is the world's most spoken language, accounting for more than one fifth of the global population. On top of this, China has more than 772 million Internet users, including an estimated 630 million who use social media networks each day.

The Department of Public Information's job is to tell the UN story, and to tell it to a global public in languages they understand. That means, of course, that we are committed to reaching Chinese-language audiences. And we are doing just that, taking advantage of popular platforms such as Sina Weibo, WeChat, TenCent, Meipai, Miaopai and Youku, to share multimedia news and information about the UN's activities and agenda.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure continued success in reaching Chinese audiences. In doing so, we strengthen multilingualism.

Xie xie!
