



**BRASIL**

**Statement by Minister Plenipotentiary Maria Teresa Mesquita Pêsoa, of the  
Permanent Mission of Brazil to United Nations, at the General Debate of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Session of the Committee on Information.**

**New York, April 2008.**

**(Check against delivery)**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like first of all to express congratulations to you on your election to preside over this 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Information and our confidence in your able guidance. Brazil aligns itself with the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the G-77 and China, and by Mexico, on behalf of the Rio Group, and wishes to add the following comments in its national capacity.

The continued efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance the use of new information technologies, such as the expansion in the live webcasting of United Nations meetings and in the number of web pages, are important elements for the discharge of its mandate. Traditional means of communication, such as radio, TV and printed matter, remain nonetheless the most fundamental means to disseminate information in developing countries and must be supported accordingly. In this regard, Brazil would like to express its appreciation for the work of the UN Radio in Portuguese and UNTV.

In order to insure that peoples in all parts of the world receive as full information as possible about the United Nations, it is fundamental that the UN speak in as many languages as possible, not only its official languages. The Portuguese Unit of UN Radio has been undertaking significant efforts in this regard, despite the scarce human and financial resources available to it. Since 2006, 35 new partnership agreements were established in order to promote the United Nations in a language spoken by more than 235 million people in four continents. The latest of these agreements, signed on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), will further increase the cooperation among the United Nations and CPLP and facilitate the dissemination of information about the UN in Portuguese speaking countries.

The "Dairies from Haiti", produced by UN Radio in Portuguese with the support of DPKO, showcases an interesting human angle to the life of peacekeeping soldiers in MINUSTAH. It is a good example of the internal cooperation expected to disseminate accurate, balanced and timely information about peacekeeping activities of the UN.

Concerning UNTV, its role is crucial in two ways. Not only UNTV helps to spread the message of the United Nations worldwide but it also serves as a platform for peoples around the world to spread their own messages. UNTV is often the sole means of communication for disadvantaged populations to express their interests and aspirations to the rest of the world with regard to situations and stories that commercial television does not have the interest or the means to cover. Brazil would like to express its appreciation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Series produced by UNTV, which puts a spotlight on the world's most underreported stories and is currently aired by 50 international broadcasters.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow my delegation to reiterate its continued support to the work of the United Nations Information Center in Rio de Janeiro, which has been disseminating information in Brazil about the activities of United Nations family for more than six decades. The activities of UNIC Rio de Janeiro - carried out through intense collaboration with the media, NGOs, universities and government bodies - educate and raise awareness of the Brazilian people about the fundamental role of the United Nations to promote multilateral solutions to the challenges faced by the international community. The first Brazilian training course for journalists covering peacekeeping missions, organized by UNIC Rio and the Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations of the Brazilian Army, in March 2008, is just one example of this fruitful collaboration.

In this context, we noted with great concern the information the decrease by 70% of the actual operating budget of UNIC Rio between 2002 and 2007, when currency fluctuation and inflation are factored in. We encourage the DPI and Member States to work together to explore creative ways to ensure the necessary support and progressive strengthening of the network of information centers, services and components of the UN.

Furthermore, it is regrettable that despite the offer by the Government of Angola to host and provide rent-free and maintenance-free premises for a United Nations Information Centre in Luanda and the

clear message contained in paragraph 42 of General Assembly Resolution 62/111 B, no progress was made towards the creation of a UNIC to address the special needs of Portuguese-speaking countries.

None of the 22 UNICs and 1 UNO in Africa is currently operating in a Portuguese-speaking country. Two Portuguese-speaking African countries are being served by a non Portuguese-speaking UNIC, whereas three Portuguese-speaking African countries are not covered by the network of UNICs at all. The support provided by the Portuguese unit of the UNRIC in Brussels and UNIC Rio, though commendable, cannot serve as a substitute for the strengthening of the UNIC network in Portuguese-speaking Africa.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman