

**General Debate of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Information**  
**Statement by Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cape Verde**  
**to the United Nations**  
**New York, 29 April 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

First, let me congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the thirtieth session of the Committee on Information. I take also this opportunity to extend my appreciation to other members of the bureau and secretariat staff. We are convinced that under your able leadership the committee will successfully achieve its work.

It is evident how the work of the Department of Public Information has been improved in last years in all its spheres. Nonetheless, the challenge ahead is, indeed, daunting. In this vein, I would like to congratulate the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka for his comprehensive and excellent statement before this Committee and extend also my appreciation to the officers and staff of the DPI for their tremendous and tireless efforts in marketing the work of the organization.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

In today's era of new technology, dissemination of information and intercommunications it is possible for people in every corner of the planet to reach information in real time. Such information, however, should ground on impartial and reliable sources. We are confident that the Department of Public Information has a great role to play in this respect. Every day more and more challenging tasks are before the organization and one of its solution lies on the consciousness of stakeholders in bringing to an end the digital divide and the marginalization of accessing the information faced by global world, particularly the developing world.

We support the work of the Department of Public Information and recognize its efforts in strengthening the positive image of the organization and in delivering

detailed information about its mandate and achieved results of its responsibilities. "One UN" also meant one image and one message that should be coherent and consistent among DPI and all others departments and entities within the system.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, once again, to highlight the commensurable work done by the DPI such as publicizing the activities and concerns of the Organization in a manner to achieve the greatest public impact, trying to maintain a balance between communications technology and traditional means of communications, widening the pool of its communications partners, pertaining to achieve the communications parity between the official languages and also on expanding the translation and production of important United Nations documentations into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations.

Despite all effort deployed in bridging the divide in divers areas of communications there is still a gap among them. We remain concern about this situation. For instance, according to the SG report, the statistical data show us that the non-English sites show the strongest growth with an average increase in page view of 28,6 per cent in 2007 which demonstrated clearly that large community of non-English speaking are lacking information.

Mr. Chairman,

Radio is the most effective and more widespread used means of communication, particularly in the least developed countries and specially the Portuguese speaking countries. In this respect, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Portuguese Radio unit for the services they provide around the world and for the improvement of their UN website. Therefore, to consolidate the progress achieved it is important to strengthen and manage the human and material resource of the unit in a better and equitable manner focus in achieving an optimal balance of the products and services direct to the targeted audience, in particular those of the African Portuguese Speaking Countries.

On the one hand, it is vital to dispose and to reach information and, on the other hand quality and utility of the latter are really crucial for the development of entire community. In this conjunction, the necessity of establishment and full operation of the Luanda centre is urgent for the African Portuguese Speaking countries in order to fulfill the gap and tackle its specific needs.

We are also pleased with the work carried out by the Western European centre, particularly the Portuguese desk for job done as in the same vein the Rio de Janeiro Centre for disseminating information in Portuguese for the entire Portuguese community spread all over the four continents.

Mr. Chairman

To finalize, permit me to stress that the existing collaboration between the Committee and the Department of Public Information and the cooperation within the departments of the organization should be strengthen. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General for the concise and useful reports presented to this Committee that serve as base of our deliberations.

Thank you