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**Statement
by Ms. Aida Alzhanova, the Deputy
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations at 30-th
session of the Committee on Information**

April 29, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Please, let me congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Committee and wish you and the members of the Bureau successful and fruitful work at this session. I would also like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka for his comprehensive and substantive briefing on the agenda item.

The delegation of Kazakhstan also expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on the United Nations public information activities and recommendations proposed to ensure further improvements in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Kazakhstan strongly supports the persistent efforts of the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Committee on Information to further enhancing the public information infrastructure of the UN and projecting a positive public image of the Organization. For achieving the goal, DPI continues to play role of the UN public voice, thereby helping project a positive image of the Organization in the world.

Gaining public understanding and support for its work should be a priority for all levels of the Organization as well as for Member-States. It is essential to keep people of the world fully informed in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations.

We would also like to commend the DPI activities highlighting key priority areas of the Organization in reporting period, including peace and security, climate change, Millennium Development Goals and human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan supports the process of consolidation of the United Nations information centers in close consultations with Member States to further rationalize them. In this context we welcome establishment of 63 information centers around the world, which are progressively maximizing their value as strategic assets of the Organization. All these centers have functioning websites where information is available in five official languages.

In this context we welcome continued positive changes in the DPI activities as a result of the implemented set of measures to rationalize and optimize its function. It is obvious that notable progress has been achieved in disseminating

information on the work and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council as well as important activities of other Organization's bodies.

We hope that restructuring of DPI, its priorities, process of developing and timely posting the United Nations information materials will continuously promote positive responses in the world, and will provide a fresh impetus to this important area of the UN activities.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully share the view regarding to the need for further step up efforts to disseminate information on the United Nations activities in every region of the world and expanding its geographic outreach and target audiences. Close interaction between DPI and Member States should play an important role in achieving this objective. In this regard, our delegation believes that we should take into account the disparities that are still existing among different Member States, affecting their capabilities to disseminate information about their achievements and challenges.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to draw the attention of DPI and Committee on Information to the drying-up process of the Aral Sea that acquired global dimensions and dire humanitarian consequences of nuclear testing at the former Semipalatinsk testing ground in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Chairman,

In our view, in order to maintain a positive image of the Organization in the world it is also important for DPI to disseminate information on positive experiences of Member States in relevant areas of activity.

In this context, we believe that valuable experience of my country in ensuring and strengthening accord and harmony in relations among the various ethnic and religious groups might be of interest to the world public. Kazakhstan is notorious for its multi-ethnic and multi-faith nature, where some 130 ethnicities with over 40 faiths live. We are proud of the fact that internal policy and international initiatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan are truly based on the principles of trust and dialogue.

Kazakhstan was the initiator of such unique international forums as Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA). We hosted two Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, with more than 40 delegations represented Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Shinto, Taoism, Hinduism and other faiths.

CICA is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue, consultations, consensus-based decision-making and implementation on measures of security in Asia. The idea of convening the Conference was first introduced by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev at the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly in October 1992.

At present 18 countries of Asia and Europe participate in CICA as its Member States, 6 have the status of the Observer States, while UN, OCSE, and the Arab League are the Observer Organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to express on behalf of my delegation that we are confident that the views and suggestions put forward by Member States, and the decisions taken at this session will further promote efficiency of the United Nations public outreach.

I thank you .