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при  
Организации Объединенных  
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## STATEMENT

**by Maria Zakharova, the Representative of the Russian Federation,  
at the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Information Committee**

29 April 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Russian delegation I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau upon election to such an important post and to thank you for your skillful moderation of the Committee's work.

We are grateful to the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information Mr. Akasaka for his substantive statement, which made a useful and informative complement to the Secretary-General's reports.

Consistent and long-term information policy aimed at covering the key areas of UN activities is a necessary condition for the UN's successful work. Ensuring clear, comprehensive and quality coverage of the Organization's activities is the main objective of the Department of Public Information at the current stage. DPI's engagement with all structures of the Organization is one of the key elements of effective work and successful realization of objectives set for DPI.

We endorse the basic principles of the strategic approach in DPI's work. We highly commend its role in the systematic and extensive delivery to the world public of information on goals and objectives of the United Nations. An objective, competent and

comprehensive information policy as well as its professional implementation is viewed as one of the most important tasks of the Department at the current stage.

The Secretary-General's reports submitted for the Committee's consideration reflect the massive work undertaken to implement DPI's recommendations in all priority areas. On the whole, the achievements can be assessed as positive.

The Russian delegation endorses and regards as quite justifiable DPI management's aspiration to focus its efforts on disseminating information which is of key and strategic importance for the UN, namely on maintaining international peace, assisting in the implementation of MDGs, reforming the UN, addressing new challenges and threats to security, poverty and on conflict prevention and human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

When speaking about the unique opportunities created by information and communication technologies, one should not overlook the existing inequality of access to them. We confirm our commitment to the principle of granting opportunities to all people without exception to use the benefits of the global information community, which would guarantee broad access to information, freedom of expression and equal participation for all.

DPI's main objective consists in popularizing UN activities, disseminating objective information on its work, enhancing the image of this unique international Organization. As we see it, to attain this objective we need to use actively cutting-edge information and communication technologies along with traditional means of mass communication, to ensure parity of all the official languages of the UN in the preparation of information products; it is also necessary that DPI and its local information centres track down and promptly respond to distorted information about the UN's activities.

Bringing the principle of multilingualism to life, including the development of UN radio and the web site in all the official languages of the Organization, is an important component enabling the successful attainment of DPI's objectives. We should continue to step up the potential of non-English web sites of the UN itself as well as other bodies within its system.

We are grateful to DPI for considering the possibility of extending translation of press-releases to include other official languages of the UN, which, in our view, is an important aspect of implementing the principle of multilingualism.

We welcome support to the expansion of all forms of Russian-language coverage of UN activities. According to the statistics contained in the submitted reports, the Russian language section of the UN website has demonstrated ‘the largest increase in page views’; the past year, again, has seen a considerable growth in visits (by 30%) and page views (by 58,1%).

We welcome the progress achieved in the development of DPI’s audiovisual activities, including the work of the Media Library, the modernization of UN Radio and Television, and the development of web casts.

We approve of the effective work of the international radio service and the continuing expansion and reinforcement of partnership relations with local, national and regional broadcasting stations. Also, we would like to take note of the fruitful work of UN Radio’s Russian Service, which in 2006 started broadcasting its programmes in the Russian language in Moscow, the Moscow region and St Petersburg on the waves of the *Global Radio Network*. We would like to take particular note of the constructive interaction between UN Radio’s Russian service and the leading radio station *The Voice of Russia*.

We would like to stress in particular that along with developing experimental UN Radio projects it is necessary to preserve and develop traditional radio coverage, which includes packaged programmes.

We welcome DPI’s constructive innovations in preparing and publishing its information materials, holding briefings for the press and the work of the Spokesperson’s office.

We would like to particularly stress that attention should be paid not only to original dissemination of information through press releases and briefings, but also to a prompt refutation of distorted and false information appearing in the mass media about the

Organization's activities. Unless mistakes by the mass media are clearly and unambiguously pointed out, many of DPI's efforts will be ineffective.

Establishing partnership relations with NGOs, informing the UN about their activities to the UN and holding joint events remain an important area of DPI's activities.

Mr. Chairman,

We endorse DPI's efforts to cover UN peacekeeping activities in coordination with the DPKO.

The Russian delegation traditionally pays significant attention to interaction between the government and the mass media in the area of counteracting terrorism, to the mass media's responsibility in covering terrorist acts and counter-terrorist operations.

In this context, taking advantage of the broad representation of experts on international information, we would like to draw attention to the international conference *Terrorism and Electronic Mass Media*, which is held with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; its fourth regular session will take place in Cyprus in October 2008. The main aim of the conference is to elaborate the principles of journalists' activities in covering terrorist acts and counter-terrorist operations and ways of interaction with law-enforcement agencies in such situations.

Today the dialogue of civilizations, intercultural and interreligious dialogue is assuming ever greater importance, and the role played by DPI and the UN in promoting these issues is growing. Russia is a multi-religious and a multiethnic state that has a unique experience of peaceful coexistence and a dialogue of various religions. The World Summit of Religious Leaders held in Moscow in 2006 serves as an example of the recognition of Russia's experience in addressing the very complex tasks of enhancing interreligious and intercultural understanding.

In October 2007 at the UN Headquarters during the High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace there was a special photo exhibition organized by the Russian delegation and devoted to interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Russia. In his remarks at the opening of the exhibition, President of the UN General Assembly Dr. Srgjan Kerim noted the important role of

Russia's efforts in maintaining interreligious dialogue at the national level as well as at the United Nations in advancing the culture of peace. He emphasized that as Russian experience has shown coexistence of various religious communities based on mutual respect and universal values can guarantee social cohesion and ensure that society grows both materially and spiritually. We are ready to closely cooperate with DPI in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

We approve of the ongoing rationalization of the UN information centres' activities based on the "three-track approach" which provides for strategic realignment of DPI's resources, the expanded use of new information technology and interaction at the regional level for greater impact.

We find it fundamentally important for information centres to prepare materials in languages spoken by local audiences, to arrange events for and with the participation of civil society of the host country, to target individuals who are public opinion shapers, to involve the local mass media in information and communication processes, and conduct comprehensive communication campaigns.

We reaffirm the need for an equitable approach to various information centers, be it in matters of budget allocation, human resources policy or other issues.

We believe there is a need to take note of the fruitful work of the Moscow information centre, which in many respects plays a coordinating role in matters relating to outreach and educational activities of UN agencies in Russia and the CIS.

Mr. Chairman,

In our country the memory of Nazis' victims is deeply revered.

We are grateful to the administration of the Department for involving public organizations of Russian-speaking World War II veterans to participate in the events organized by DPI in 2007. We are pleased to note that this practice is becoming annual.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN, DPI and the UN Information Center in Moscow carried out a joint project: an exhibition «*Memorial*

*Drawings: Remembering the Holocaust Victims and Their Liberators»* by Gennady Dobrov, an Honored Artist of Russia, an Honorary Member of Russian Academy of Arts, took place at the UN Headquarters in January 2008. The exhibition became part of the programme of events held by the UN in observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We once again reaffirm the need to provide within the framework of DPI's programmes and events commemorating Holocaust objective and thorough information on the outcome of World War II as a whole. We must remember that the memory of World War II victims is inseparable from the memory of their liberators, millions of whom sacrificed their lives fighting for the right of nations to a future. Any attempts to consign to oblivion those who fought against fascism and national socialism must be firmly terminated. In this context, we condemn the trend that is gaining momentum in many countries to present accomplices of the Nazis as heroes while destroying monuments to those who during the war fought on the side of the anti-fascist coalition.

Mr Chairman,

In the near future in accordance with GA Resolution 62/87, the implementation of the capital master plan of the Secretariat building renovations will begin. We hope that as it is set forth in GA Resolution 62/111 the Secretary-General will make every effort to ensure that the level of services provided by the Department of Public Information is maintained throughout the period of the implementation of the capital master plan.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to assure you that as always our delegation is looking forward to constructive cooperation with you, members of the Bureau, Member-States of the Committee and DPI staff to improve UN activities in the field of information.

Thank you.