

**Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information,
Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, of Costa Rica,
at the opening of the thirty-third session, 27 April 2011**

Mr. Under-Secretary General

Distinguished delegates and colleagues

Ladies and gentleman

In assuming the chairmanship of the Committee on Information, my first words are of gratitude:

- To you, members of the Committee, for electing me as your Chairman.
- To the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), for its trust on my country and myself in proposing me to the post.
- And to the members of the outgoing Bureau, for their valuable contributions. I commend, especially, the exemplary leadership of my colleague and friend, Ambassador, Antonio Monteiro Lima, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde, in the performance of his duties.

Thanks to the contribution of our predecessors, to the constructive relationship between the Committee and the Department of Public Information (DPI), to the skilful direction of Under-Secretary Kiyo Akasaka, and to the commitment of General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, the UN has made substantial progress in the area of communication during previous years.

On behalf of the new Bureau, I promise a sustained effort and an open and constructive attitude on our part in keeping that direction. We count on you for translating them into positive outcomes.

Personally, I assume the responsibility with which you have honored me, as a natural confluence between my profession of communicator and journalist and my current condition as a diplomat. I feel stimulated and excited for it, but I am fully conscious of the challenge that it entails, and of the imperative to face it with effectiveness and rectitude.

Dear colleagues:

Resolution 65/107 reminds us that "The contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations". Contemporary reality, on its part, reveals that information and communication are at the heart of the political, economic and social processes that are re-defining the world with unparalleled speed.

In more than sixty years of the United Nations existence, multilateralism has never been tested in so many fronts all at once.

Therefore, I don't need to exaggerate the importance of this Committee, as the principal subsidiary body of the Organization in charge of reviewing "UN public information policies and activities", as stated by resolution 33/115, which established the Committee 33 years ago. Nor need I to exaggerate the importance of the Committee on Public Information

Those policies and activities on information reach global dimension when they refer to, and emanate from, the United Nations. Therefore, we need to approach them with increasing vision and effectiveness.

In this sense, I invite you to consider three levels of reflection in relation to the Committee, the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Organization as a whole.

The first refers to this thirty-third session. In it, we should examine the reports of the Secretary General on the activities of the DPI, and adopt a resolution on the political guidance for its performance and the conceptual foundations upon which it should be based. It is a well-known route that, however, today more than ever, we should follow with sensibility and rigor.

The second level refers to the interaction between the Committee and the DPI; also, to the work of the Department. In previous years, that relation and that work have substantially improved. Therefore, we should constantly raise our goals on focus, coordination and results.

The third level transcends the Committee and the Department, for it relates to the communication culture of the Organization. Therefore, it touches a common responsibility of all its members, organs and processes. It includes such diverse issues as, for example, transparency in the work of the Security Council, the flow and focus of conferences' outcome documents, or the relationship between the dynamic international reality and its representation, at times static, in General Assembly resolutions.

The more we could advance in those levels of reflection, but also of decision, the more we will do to strengthen the relevance of the UN, not only on communication matters that directly concern us, but also on the purposes and principles established by its Charter, which should always be the backbone of our work.

Out of personal conviction, and of the importance that Costa Rica grants to the multilateral system, I promise you constant effort, transparency and commitment in conducting my duties.

I wish you all great success in the workings we are about to undertake.

Thank you, very much.