



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
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PRESS RELEASE

**Statement by Wang Yuefang, Chinese Delegate at
the 33rd Session of the Committee on Information**

April 27, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, H.E. Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, for his assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee. I would also like to congratulate other members of the bureau. I am convinced that under your outstanding leadership, this session will achieve productive results.

The Chinese delegation thanks Under-Secretary-General Kiyotaka Akasaka for his briefing on the work of the UN in the field of public information and appreciates the positive results achieved by the DPI under the guidance of Under-Secretary-General Kiyotaka Akasaka. The Chinese delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

To further improve the UN's work in the field of information, increase its efficiency and influence and make it more targeted, I would like to make the following points:

First, information work in various official languages should be carried out in a balanced manner so as to expand the UN's influence in all regions of the world. According to the report on the work of the DPI, UN information centers around the world are now capable of working in 48 languages and maintaining some UN websites in multiple languages. We express our appreciation to the DPI for its efforts and achievements in strengthening contact with various countries and using multiple languages to disseminate information about UN activities. At the same time, we have also noticed that in 2010, the site traffic for Arabic, Russian and Chinese websites added together constituted only 17% of the total traffic for the whole UN website system. This is too low compared with other

official languages of the UN. Factors like slow updating of the webpage, relatively small amount of information and less than satisfactory content have all affected the use of UN websites by audience using Arabic, Russian and Chinese languages. We hope that the DPI will pay attention to the balanced delivery of service in all official languages and use the websites as a platform to further improve information service to audience of all countries.

Second, efforts are needed to strengthen the construction of UN websites and improve the quality of the information provided via those websites. We have noticed that the UN has improved the design and functions of its websites and greatly enhanced their operability and user friendliness, thus increasing the effectiveness of their use. It is particularly worth mentioning that the integration and upgrading of functions like document indexing and news item indexing have helped member states to obtain information through UN websites.

While positive progress and results have been achieved in the building of UN websites, there is still room for improvement. We support the work of the Secretariat to further improve UN websites and hope that they become a window and platform for introducing the work of the UN to the people of the world.

Third, attention should be given to the special needs of the developing countries and enhance information service provided to them. In recent years, the UN has taken many initiatives to make use of the latest ICTs such as social networking websites to better serve young audience. Such efforts have opened up new channels to make the young generation realize and understand the work of the UN and bring to their attention problems and challenges facing the international community. At the same time, we should remember that the majority of the people in developing countries still rely on traditional media such as television, radio and newspaper to get information. In its work in the field of information, the UN should bear in mind the objective needs of the people in developing countries in information access, avoid further widening the gap among different countries in information access, further increase cooperation and exchange with the media of developing countries and provide more support and assistance to them.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese Delegation appreciates the effort of the UN Secretariat to launch the Academic Impact Program and the UN Language Day activities aimed at expanding the UN influence. China will continue to support the work of the Committee on Information and strengthen cooperation in various fields with the Secretariat, the DPI in particular.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.