

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций



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STATEMENT

by Igor D. EVDOKIMOV,
Representative of the Russian Federation
at the 33rd session of the UN Committee on Information
(New York, April 27 - May 5, 2011)
28 April 2011

Unofficial translation
Check against delivery

Dear Mr. President,

First of all, let me welcome the new members of the Bureau of the Committee on Information and new Directors in the Department of Public Information of the UN Secretariat. We wish you every success in your work and express confidence that, thanks to the vigorous activity of the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Mr. Akasaka, the Committee in collaboration with the Department of Public Information will continue to successfully exercise its functions assigned to them. We are grateful to the UN Secretary-General for his report on the activities of the Department (A/AS.198/2011/2, 3 and 4).

We appreciate the activities of the Department of Public Information and are pleased to note its efforts to develop strategic communications services, news services, as well as dynamic information and education, as reflected in the report. We believe that in general, the Department successfully copes with its main task - to inform the world public about United Nations activities.

Mr. President,

We actively support the model of strategic planning of its activities used by DPI, i.e. setting of communication priorities followed by detailed development of media campaigns.

The set of tools used to achieve these goals is also reasonable: effective reallocation of resources allows DPI to actively use modern information and communication as well as multimedia technologies, which ultimately extends the boundaries of the target audience. The Organization's website has become the central element of the information system, working in six languages and quickly responding to events occurring in the context of the UN. In our view, effective informing the

public about the activities of the UN requires a balanced approach to the use for this purpose of both the traditional media and new information and communication services. In this regard, we welcome the work to maintain and develop television and radio broadcasting. We note the positive trend in attracting new, predominantly young audiences through such Internet-based resources as Twitter, Facebook and You Tube.

During 2010, the Department provided adequate coverage of the entire spectrum of items on the Organization's agenda. The Millennium Development Goals Summit held in New York in September 2010 has caused great interest among the media. We note the significant contribution of DPI in providing adequate coverage of the Summit and its results in the world mass media.

We believe that the activity by the DPI to observe the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, in which you focus on the recognition of the role of the liberators of Nazi concentration camps is an important element. For us, Russians, whose fathers and grandfathers participated in the liberation of prisoners of German concentration camps, this topic is always relevant and up-to-date, especially in view of the approaching 70th anniversary of the beginning of the aggression of Nazi Germany at our country on June 22, 1941. We thank the DPI for the participation of its representatives and the active assistance in organizing the at the UN Headquarters the roundtable on the theme of "A world without Nazism - a global objective of the mankind today and 65 years since the Nuremberg process". Cosponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation and the American Forum of the World Congress of Russian Jewry and the American branch of the International Human Rights Movement "A world without Nazism", the round table was held on February 10 this year. The role of such events is extremely high in the understanding that the Holocaust is not only the tragedy of the Jewish people, but also the human tragedy of World War II.

However, with great regret we note again that in some countries they still continue to connive those who seek to revise the history of the bloodiest war in human history and to give the Nazi henchmen an aura of heroism and an image of national patriots. I would like to reiterate that such policy is incompatible with the commitments made by those countries in accordance with the UN Charter. Moreover, attempts to glorify Nazi accomplices are contrary to one of the major objectives of the Charter of the Organization - to save succeeding generations from the horrors of another war.

Dear Colleagues,

In the context of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures announced in 2010 topics of inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue acquired additional importance. We look forward to further discuss at the UN and among the religious leaders Russia's initiative to create under the aegis of the UN a consultative council of religions.

Concerts and presentations that take place on the stage of the General Assembly Hall are of great help in understanding cultures of the world. The concert

organized by the International Organization of Turkic culture "Turksoy" on March 24 gathered at the UN GA Hall stage performers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Ukraine. And on May 24, a presentation of the Forum of Slavic Cultures will be held at the UN GA Hall. Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation the concert will include a performance by the Russian National Orchestra of Folk Instruments and soloist from Slavic countries.

We welcome the Department's efforts to promote UN activities through youth programs, aimed at developing cooperation with educational institutions. The Academic Impact initiative launched by the DPI in 2010, brings together institutions of higher education and the United Nations to actively support the generally recognized principles in such areas as human rights, education, sustainable development and conflict resolution. The initiative deserves our active support. The Academic community is one of the most energetic and creative audience that communicates directly with the UN. We note with satisfaction the support of the initiative from universities in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Ufa, Kaliningrad and other Russian cities.

We consider it important to provide ongoing support at both national and international level to the Model United Nations. The National Model United Nations is held annually at the Moscow Institute of International Relations (University) and several other universities of Russia; Russian students at a high professional level have participated in the Global Model UN held in Geneva in 2009 and in Kuala Lumpur in 2010. This year we can expect an active Russian participation in the 3rd Global Model United Nations, which will be held from 10 to 14 August in the city of Incheon, Korea.

Dear Mr. President,

One of the major tenets of the UN information activity is the multilingualism and parity of the official languages. Proceeding along this track, the DPI has continued its efforts to improve the multilingual content of the UN web site. However recently there have occurred difficulties in this area that could be expected. Many departments of the Secretariat supply materials for the website in English only. The domination of social media networks, based on English language platforms is not conducive to linguistic balance either. However, the emerging difficulties should not become an excuse to deviate from the principle of multilingualism. If creative approach is used, limited translation capability of the UN could be compensated through the development of non-commercial partnerships with linguistic departments of universities, translation training courses, etc. Such partnerships have been successfully developed recently, for example, between the UN Information Center in Moscow and the Higher School of Translation and Interpretation in St. Petersburg.

We are supportive of all forms of Russian-language information support for UN activities. We note in this regard the effective work of the UN Russian language news services in New York, that have proven to be one of the major and most reliable

sources of relevant information on the Organization's activity. It is no secret that for many in Russia, from schoolchildren to professional journalists, materials provided by the Russian news service at the UN serve as an indispensable part of daily news menu. Therefore, we are interested in seeing this news portal in Russian provided with adequate resources.

We believe that holding in 2010 of the days of each of the six official UN languages in celebration of the International Mother Language Day was successful. Diplomatic missions and UN Secretariat staff showed great interest to the Russian Language Day, marking the birthday of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. This year, we plan to continue this initiative.

We welcome the establishment of the country-level UN - Russia Communication Group - and its contribution to the "UN in Russia" newsletter - a bimonthly published in English and Russian.

We believe that any initiative by the DPI, aimed at developing the professional skills of its staff is worth supporting. The most valuable asset of the Department - its staff - will manifest themselves best if they feel a caring attitude. The opportunity for professional development is the most important proof of such caring attitude. The management of the DPI should pay special attention to provide equitable distribution of opportunities for training and professional growth of employees between those who work in the central office of the Department and those who work in its Information Centers. The idea of "global secretariat" should not remain just a nice slogan.

We note the creative and proactive approach demonstrated by the staff of the UN Information Center in Moscow. Their efforts to promote topics of human rights, indigenous peoples, non-proliferation of WMD etc. are worth our praise.

Mr. President,

We commend the efforts of the DPI management to develop partnerships with NGOs and other segments of civil society. As practice shows, the annual DPI / NGO Conference allow the associate non-governmental organizations to broaden their contacts, to raise awareness about the work of UN and partner organizations in other parts of the world.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure you that our delegation looks forward to further constructive cooperation with you, members of the Bureau, Member States of the Committee and the DPI staff to further improve UN activities in the information area.

Thank you.