



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations.

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STATEMENT BY

**MRS. MAURA MWINGIRA, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE 33RD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION

NEW YORK, 28 APRIL 2011

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Mr Chairman:

I would like to congratulate you on your election as chairman of the committee on information and would like to extend the full support of my delegation. I wish you and other members of the bureau success in your endeavour to lead the committee toward a successful conclusion.

On behalf of my delegation, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Under-Secretary-General Akasaka for his very comprehensive presentation.

Mr Chairman:

As we add our country's voice to this debate, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Argentina on behalf of G-77 and China.

Much has been said by previous speakers and I would not want to repeat what they have spoken. My delegation mainly wants to emphasize the importance of the activities of the News Services and in particular of United Nations Radio.

According to the report of the Secretary General, United Nations Radio has continued to enhance its news services, in the six official languages, as well as Portuguese and Kiswahili by providing news, features and special programmes on areas of United Nations priority.

My delegation commends the very able and professional manner in which the DPI discharges its mandate, even under difficult resource constraints. Tanzania is very impressed with the report given that shows a huge increase in the number of users of the Kiswahili radio website. The report shows that the number of users has increased from 1 per cent to 21 per cent. We also welcome the increase in the number of Kiswahili radio stations including Maarifa FM in the United Republic of Tanzania. This is a major achievement and we should

all recognize it as such, and commend DPI and the two staff members managing the Kiswahili radio service for this outstanding work.

Mr Chairman:

There is a reason why Kiswahili is an official language of the African Union. This is a language spoken by over 200 million people in Eastern and Central Africa and beyond. We all know information is power. Kiswahili has the possibility to reach and empower that number of people and is an appropriate communication tool for the United Nations, including in the post-conflict countries, societies and communities of Eastern and Central Africa.

My delegation therefore appeals for the strengthening of the Kiswahili Radio, including increasing its staffing in the near future. This will not only improve the quality and quantity of the information posted but it will also reduce the workload being shouldered by the two staff members. We realize the financial constraints under which the United Nations, and hence DPI, operates. But we also want this matter to be among the top priorities of the DPI in the days ahead.

Mr Chairman:

Lastly, but equally important, is the work of United Nations Information Centres (UNICs). My delegation wants to underscore the importance of the activities of the Information Centres. In this regard, we wish to reiterate that any further rationalization of the network of UNIC's should be undertaken on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the concerned Member States where they are located.

Mr Chairman:

I thank you.