

**STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
AT THE CLOSING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION**

**Friday, 6 May 2016, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates and friends,

It is a little more than a week since I last spoke to you, and the enormous, painstaking work you have undertaken in that period is reflected in the text of the resolution to which you have all agreed. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to echo your words of appreciation to the negotiators, led by Vachara Pawutiyapong of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The resolution this year has been generous in recognizing the work of the global DPI team. It has also been challenging in the expectations it voices – expectations that we shall do our best to fulfil. Whether it is in your reference to the need to enhance global public awareness of the situation of refugees and migrants, or your recognition of the potential of our websites to integrate written, audio and visual elements in all of the official languages, or your appreciation of the cost-neutral partnerships successfully initiated by the United Nations Academic Impact initiative, you remain a source of constructive encouragement and guidance for our collective efforts.

We note also the references to resources in the resolution. I had explained the constraints we face in my remarks at the close of the general debate last week. It is our understanding, in the context of multilingualism, that the Department is requested to make maximum efforts within existing capacities to ensure the full and equitable treatment of all official languages and to report thereon to the 39th session of the Committee on Information.

DPI will continue to work to multiply the reach of United Nations messages through the range of media already at its disposal, and through creative and imaginative partnerships, including with you, our Member States. The “Turn the World UN Blue” campaign, to which many of you made generous reference, is a vivid instance of how your support and participation can exponentially expand our horizons and our impact.

We count on this partnership going forward in this year of complex global challenges. Only then can we live up to the affirmation in your resolution that the voice of the United Nations, as the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world, can be heard in a clear and effective manner.

Thank you.
