

As delivered

**Officer-in-Charge, Department of Global Communications
Mr. Ian Phillips
Closing Statement to the Committee on Information**

**Friday, 9 May 2025
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 1, UN Headquarters**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

Good morning. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on Information as it concludes its 47th annual session. But first, allow me to say that Under-Secretary-General Melissa Fleming regrets not being able to be with you today.

The Under-Secretary-General and all of us in the Department have closely followed the proceedings of the General Debate. We have also received first-hand information from the Secretariat about discussions within the Open-Ended Working Group.

We are fully aware, and grateful, to delegates who have worked tirelessly to reach consensus, as has been the tradition of this Committee for so many years.

The value of having these negotiations fully in person cannot be underestimated or understated – the same goes for the adoption of the Committee on Information resolution by consensus at a time of growing global challenges.

You have come to the meetings of the Committee with different positions and at times, it seemed that the bridge was too wide to cross. However, that's how multilateralism works: finding common ground and a way forward that each can agree on as representing the collective will of the Committee

on Information. We congratulate all of you for your efforts and for your spirit of cooperation, and thank you for providing us with consensus direction and support for the Department's work going forward.

Mr. Chair,

Let me thank you, Your Excellency Ambassador Rein Tammsaar, of Estonia, for your leadership during the session. I extend the Department's appreciation to the other members of the Bureau: Youssouf Aden Moussa from Djibouti, Carmen Rosa Rios from Bolivia, Rawa Zoghbi from Lebanon, and Alyson Calem Sangiorgio from Monaco, who is also the Rapporteur of the Committee.

Of course, a great deal of gratitude goes to Counsellor Kulapa Suaprae from Thailand, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, for ensuring the success of the negotiations. It was not always easy, but you and the Committee found a way. And I would also like to thank the negotiating partners, including the regional groups, that worked tirelessly to get the result we have today.

Finally, our gratitude to my colleague Robb Skinner, Secretary of the Committee, Gosia Juszcak, and the rest of the Secretariat team, for their work ahead of and during this annual session.

Distinguished delegates,

On World Press Freedom Day, just a few days ago, the Secretary-General stated that "Press freedom faces an unprecedented threat. AI can support freedom of expression — or stifle it. Biased algorithms, outright lies and hate speech are landmines on the information superhighway. Accurate, verifiable, fact-based information is the best tool to defuse them."

We heard from your statements during the General Debate that fighting misinformation, disinformation and information manipulation is at the core of your concerns — together with the safe, secure and trustworthy use of AI.

In that regard, the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity, that my Department drafted, will continue informing efforts to develop safe and healthy information environments.

Moreover, nearly all of you underlined the importance you attach to multilingualism during your interventions. As Under-Secretary-General Fleming stressed in her opening statement, we share those values. Our Department will continue communicating the vital work of the UN, here in headquarters and globally, in the six UN official languages and many more.

In September, the 80th session of the UN General Assembly will be upon us. In the lead up to the High-Level week and beyond, we will work to ensure that we highlight the value of multilateralism to address the world's challenges.

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

There is always room for improvement, and we have learned much from our experience and from the Committee's guidance. In our complex media landscape, reaching audiences in languages people speak and on platforms they use is a challenging task, but we will continue to innovate, to inform, engage, and inspire.

I thank you.
