

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kim Chang Guk, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations (24 April 2002)**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, first of all, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau of the Committee on your re-election this year. I also wish to extend my thanks to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, the interim Head of DPI for the presentation of the focus being on the re-orientation of UN activities in the field of public information and communications to the Committee. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 pointing out the position of the Group on major issues.

Mr. Chairman,

It is regrettable to say that imbalance and inequality still remains in the field of public information and communications even today when the 21st century is ushered.

Large-scale modern facilities in the field of public information and communications are in the hands of the developed countries as before, and these constitute a vehicle of spreading their ideas, culture and distorted information in accordance with their demands and interests. Consequently, the just voices of the developing countries, which occupy an absolute majority of the world population, are not being heard loudly.

In this respect, my delegation considers that the current session should pay due attention to the following some important issues.

First, all information activities should not be abused as a tool for infringement upon sovereignty and interference in internal affairs of others.

Some countries take the advantage of "globalization" to impose their own ideas and values upon others. These countries are abusing mass medias as means or intervening in internal affairs, even political and military crisis and distorting the reality of developing countries.

The world information activities should not tolerate the double standard, whereby an action taken within one's own country is designed for "preventing crimes", whereas actions in other country are "encroachment on human rights" or missile of a big country is for peace, whereas that of a small country is for breaking peace.

The attempts to create chaos and disorder and instigate anti-government forces in other countries through mass media should also be put to an end.

Second, the establishment of a new and just international information order should be the main objective of the world information activities in the new century.

At present, the rapid development of the public information and communication technologies are remarkably conducive to promoting the well being of humankind. However, the benefits

are confined only to a few countries whereas the majority of developing countries still remain at the margin of the public information field.

It is, therefore, imperative for the United Nations to provide the developing countries with more opportunities for their participation in the activities of the international public information and communications.

Meanwhile, the developing countries should enhance their own information capacity and elevate the collective efforts through cooperation in the field of information and communications. For their efforts to bear due results, international assistance such as transfer of technology, training of experts and financial investment should be supported.

Third, the continued attention should be given to strengthen UN activities in the field of public information and communications.

What is important here is to ensure impartiality and objectivity in the UN public information activities, and create better environment for addressing the economic and social problems of the developing countries in a way that increase a proportion of coverage and dissemination of issues, which they are most concerned.

My delegation avails itself of this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the DPI devoted to training experts and broadcasters from the developing countries as a part of assisting their capacity-building.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is confident that public information will contribute to all humankind when the voices of the developing countries, which hold an absolute majority of the world populations, are fully respected in the field of information and communications through an equitable world information and communications order.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.