

Statement by Mr. Yuriy Khomenko, Representative of Ukraine (19 April 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor for providing an update on the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the beginning of this session and valuable interactive dialogue initiated by the Department between DPI and the members of this Committee.

We welcome DPI's new strategic approach and support the Department's efforts to focus on the effectiveness of program activities and re-setting its priorities in order to meet the needs of its "clients".

In his opening statement the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information stressed that the Department made a strategic decision to use the most appropriate communications technologies and tools to secure speed, innovation and variety in its work. He also provided impressive examples of the effect these communication technologies, first of all, the Internet, have had on the Department's ability to reach target audiences.

We welcome impressive achievements of the United Nations web site and would like to stress that its importance lay not only in the site's ability to attract users from all over the world, but in the multiplication effect that it is producing. The Internet, for example, allows the information agencies, media and non-governmental organizations immediate access to materials of the UN News Center. Stories, produced by Russian-language section of the News Center are actively redistributed by mass media in Ukraine. They are widely used, for example, by the internet news agency "Businessinform", and find their way into print and internet newspapers and other media outlets. In this way the impact of the UN story is multiplied many times over the original reach of the UN web site. We are pleased to see that DPI does its best within limited resources in its disposal to enhance the website in all official languages of the Organization.

We would also like to welcome efforts made by the language sections of the News Center and UN Radio to maintain balance between the coverage of mainstream UN stories and reporting on UN activities in the specific regions and countries. Only by providing concrete examples and telling success stories, the message of the MDG and, in much broader sense, of the UN itself can be brought home to wider audience.

We support efforts of the Secretary-General and the Department of Public Information to achieve a more modern, highly integrated, and efficient system of library services within the United Nations. Collaborative reference services, supported by cooperative collection development and resource sharing, will insure immediate electronic access to the wealth of global information resources to be used in the development of all knowledge-sharing initiatives of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukrainian delegation would like to underline the important role of DPI in supporting peacekeeping and peace building efforts. In this connection Ukraine supports the Department's strategy to raise awareness about UN peacekeeping. We also welcome the efforts undertaken by DPI aimed at commemorating the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

We believe that DPI will continue to play a central role in drawing the attention of the international community to issues of global concern such as the problem of terrorism, conflict prevention, sustainable development, AIDS, environment, including the problem of Chernobyl.

In conclusion, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation for the hard work of all DPI staff which led to achieving a considerable progress in reforming UN activities in the field of public information and pledge Ukraine's support for the Department's efforts.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.