

Statement Mr. Triyogo Jatmiko, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations (1 May 2007)

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to begin by expressing the warmest greetings of the delegation of Indonesia to Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, the new Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. We wish him an enjoyable tenure of office, and are confident that under his stewardship, the performance of the department will continue to improve. Our sincere appreciation is also due to Mr. Shashi Tharor, the former USG, for his contributions towards a more effective, efficient and productive department.

I warmly welcome the new chair of the Committee on Information and the members of the Bureau. The delegation of Indonesia pledges its full support and cooperation towards ensuring success in the work of the committee.

I associate myself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the G-77 and China, but wish to elaborate on some issues of particular relevance to Indonesia.

My delegation is pleased to acknowledge the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information that is before us. We are pleased that following the mandate of the General Assembly, the department has continued to extend its reach the world over in trying to ensure the most effective dissemination of information about the United Nations.

In this regard, we are pleased to observe that the strategy of better-defined communications goals, identification of target audiences, the use of various actors and re-disseminators, and the use of ways of assessing the impact of its approaches and activities, is paying off.

We take note, Mr. Chairman, of better coordination in the entire system, particularly through the use of the United Nations Communications Group. Although it was established only five years ago, its impact is being felt throughout the Organization. With about 41 offices from the width and breadth of the United Nations, and using such important tools as regular brainstorming meetings, at all levels, the Communications Group is effectively coordinating and guiding the information agenda. This is the way it should be, and we are proud of the strides that have been made.

As a troop-contributing country, Indonesia recognizes how important information dissemination is in United Nations peacekeeping. This is why we are pleased at the current growing cooperation between DPI and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We particularly compliment the daily meeting of the joint public information working group, which was started last year. We fully believe that these initiatives will enhance the image of the United Nations in the eyes of the world, as well as the quality of peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairman,

There can be no doubt that the increasing use of information and communication technologies is part of the reason why some of our communication strategies have proved to be so successful. We commend DPI for extending the use of these technologies as far a field as possible. Not only has this brought the work of the United Nations closer to the people of the world, it is also bringing United Nations offices and programmes closer to each other, and enhancing partnerships.

In this connection, we are pleased at the increasing use and influence of the United Nations Information Centres, and their deeper involvement with the local media. They are a critical link in the work of the United Nations, and we will continue to support them. We hope that the latest and most effective technologies will always be made available to them.

Indonesia is pleased that bahasa Indonesia is of the 29 non-official languages in which the local United Nations information centre maintains a website. The website in Bahasa Indonesia is a great source of United Nations information to our people, and we are thankful of it.

Mr. Chairman,

With all of this as background, my delegation commends DPI for continuing to enhance its efforts to communicate the activities and concerns of the Organization to the world community in an accurate, balanced and objective manner. As we all know, the world has become a heavily-interconnected global arena with interwoven social, cultural, religious and economic realities. DPI's ability to do this, as well as its continuing re-invention of itself to ensure that it fulfills its mandate to strategically communicate the work and purposes of the United Nations to achieve the greatest impact is highly commendable.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is the view of my delegation that when we consider the notion of the greatest public impact that DPI could make, it should not be understood only in terms of promoting a positive public image of the United Nations and creating a better-informed public, but also in terms of enhancing the influence of the Organization in the world, making it the United Nations a repository of the best values of the world. By keeping this in focus, DPI would be helping to transform the world into a more tolerant, peaceful, multicultural community.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.