



*Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the United Nations*

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**31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Information  
Statement by Ana Sapinho Pires  
Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cape Verde**

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for us seeing you chairing our meeting. At outset, let me congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the thirty first Session of the Committee on Information as well as the other members of the bureau. We are convinced that under your leadership the committee will achieve its work with success. I would also like to thank the outgoing bureau for great work accomplished.

While recognizing the strong and enormous efforts carried out by the staff of the Department of Public Information as well as the excellent work done in promoting the United Nations objectives, purposes and image, the remain task ahead is daunting. Therefore, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka for the comprehensive and constructive statement presented to us on the activities of the department and also commend him and his team for their endeavors. Moreover, I would like to extend also our profound appreciations to the officers and staff of the DPI for their commitments with the work and the cause of this organization.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Nevertheless, permit me to add some comments at our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The progress in the area of new technology in the past few years has been unprecedented. On the other hand, the access to reliable information remains a big challenge for majority of people living in developing world. There are several reasons behind this picture. It starts with the digital divide between north and

south and it goes through the level of poverty facing those peoples. We are confident that the Department of Public Information has a great role to play in this respect by providing the necessary tool, bridging the gap and granting a voice of hope for the most in need.

We support and appreciate the work of the Department of Public Information and recognize its efforts in strengthening the constructive image of the organization and in delivering comprehensive information about its mandate and achieved results of its tasks. Pursuing this goal, we encourage the DPI to continue advancing the other means of delivery in order to reach an ever-expanding audience around the globe. We strongly support the existing main focus themes, like Millennium Development goals, Human rights, peace keeping operations, climate change. We support the proposal to include among these themes the violence against women in the framework of our common effort to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women as essential items to focus on at a time where any regression in these fields could be a wrong message to the world. We also believe that we should by all means reaffirm the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information and our commitment to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media that are important for any society on the path of democracy, equality, freedom and good governance.

At the same time, we take this opportunity to request the United Nations Radio to continue strengthening ties with its current partner stations to ensure that they receive material by traditional means particularly in remotes areas of developing countries where radio is essential and is still the unique tool for information and education. Indeed, information as a powerful tool for any individual or society should not be hold as an exclusivity of smaller group.

The United Nations Information Centers (UNIC) promote a better understanding of the work of the UN and are key to the organization's efforts to reach people around the world and to share the UN stories with them in there own languages. In this vein, we commend the work of the Portuguese desk in the western European Centre for supplying information to Portuguese speaking countries. However, once again, we would like to restate the necessity to fulfill the urgent and specific needs of African Portuguese speaking countries. What is in need is not only the quantity but the quality of information. In this context, we call on the Under Secretary to make feasible and reality the Angolan Centre.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased with the commensurable work done by the Dag Hammarskjold Library for a range of services provided to delegates of Members States and staff of the organization. We strong support the continuity of those programs and services and recommend the DPI to build more partnership with Universities or Study Centers and to provide support to the national libraries of developing countries. Besides, we are in the view that the initiative "UN4U" should be replicate in other parts of the world especially in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We also congratulate the Secretary General for presenting succinct and constructive reports for the consideration of our Committee serving as a base of our labor. The collaboration between the Committee and the Department of Public Information and the cooperation within the departments of the organization is very much appreciated and there is a room for further strengthening. In this tone, we would like to conclude by assuring you the commitment of Cape Verde to the work of our organization and especially to DPI.

Thank you