

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA,
BY H.E. MR. ABDALMAHMOOD ABDALHALEEM MOHAMAD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE THIRTY- FIRST
SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION.
(NEW YORK, 4 MAY, 2009)**

Mr. Chairman,

It is a privilege for me to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the commencement of the thirty first session of the Committee on Information.

*Allow me to begin by extending warmest congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Antonio Lima, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations on his election as Chair of the Committee. With your known diplo*44(4NhW-jSjj] T J n-q("S'j4x-(JS)j(NsW-'S(jDjj] T J n-q("S)4"J)-(J'S"

The Group of 77 and China has taken note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Mr. Chairman,

The most daunting task before DPI is to reach out to the widest possible audiences. Many countries, especially developing countries, lack adequate resources and technical means to access information regarding United Nation's activities and achievements. The United Nations is a universal forum where the issues and concerns faced by the world community are debated. A comprehensive, accurate, impartial, and balanced coverage of the deliberations, decisions and actions of the United Nations can help promote better understanding and goodwill. It is therefore critical for DPI to continuously and actively project the United Nations ideals and accomplishments, intensify outreach and transmit the United Nations message to all peoples around the world.

The Group of 77 and China fully supports the work of the DPI and its activities in promoting the work of the United Nations and issues of importance to the international community, such as the Millennium Development Goals, Climate Change, Human Rights, Sustainable

and skills. These and other activities undertaken by the DPI in this regard should be enhanced and reinforced..

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Network of United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) activities and strategic direction. We urge that all possible measures be taken to strengthen the UNICs. These Centres are a vital source for the flow of information as they help to bridge the gap between the developed and developing countries in terms of access to information and communication technologies. The Group of 77 and China wishes to underline that any decision pertaining to reorganize the UNICs must be made in close consultation with the host countries, and it must take into account the geographical, linguistic and technological characters and needs of different regions.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 of China would like to stress the need that the United Nations Website is available in all official languages. The group is of the view that more resources and efforts should be allocated to achieve full parity of languages and to bridge the gap among websites in the Organization's six official languages.

The group attaches great importance to the continuation of the use of traditional media, including both radio and print, in disseminating the main messages of the United Nations, since traditional media remains the primary means of communication in developing countries.

and Economic Crisis and its impact on development including the