Mr. Chairman,

information that is most appropriate for their circumstances. Information centers should therefore be given adequate resources to ensure that the needs of those who could benefit most from receipt of information are met.

As a traditional means of disseminating information, radio continues to be the most widely used medium available in developing countries. Its capacity to serve the needs of developing countries should therefore be optimized. Judging from the report of the Secretary-General, the pilot project for international radio broadcasting has made a positive contribution to the lives of people who cannot be reached by other media. We join with those who have called for a continuation of the project beyond this year and we hope that that adequate funding would be provided which would enable it to continue to serve regions of the world that would benefit most from it. We also hope that the Department of Public Information will continue to include specific programmes addressing the needs of developing countries in both its radio and television programming.

The Internet is undoubtedly a splendid tool for disseminating information, but limitations on access have to be taken into account. In this regard, we note that, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General on equitable disbursement of resources to United Nations Information Centers, Africa and the Middle East, the two regions most affected by conflict, together account for only one percent of Internet users worldwide. This is clearly a digital divide that must be bridged.

Through information centers, people in different regions of the world can obtain information about the activities the United Nations and the impact of these on their lives. Advances in technology can afford those countries that do not have information centers to have easy access to the material provided. Efforts should be made to ensure that all centers are equipped to disseminate information using current technology. Such an approach could benefit the Caribbean, since the center in Trinidad and Tobago must serve the entire region.

designing of Web pages, due consideration should be given to the technological limitations of developing countries since complex designs do not allow for quick downloads.

The United Nations Web sites can also serve as useful sources of income generation for the United Nations if they are e-commerce enabled. The Bookstore is one area that could benefit from this service. We hope that in the future efforts will be made to explore fully the income-generating potential of its Web sites.

The Dag Hammerskjöd library is a useful documentation source of United Nations activities and also non-United Nations publications held in collection. The availability of its UNBISnet