## Statement by H.E. Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations (23 April 2002)

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is happy to be participating in the discussion on this agenda item. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, the Interim Head of the Department of Public The advancement in information technology has taken an unprecedented pace transforming

all areas of human activity. Today, millions of people can access the information super highway. But the developed and the developing countries have a vast gulf in terms of their access to this technology. While the developed countries benefit by mutually sharing their know-how, the developing world is excluded. This imbalance needs to be corrected so that benefits are shared on a more just and equitable basis. It will be a pity if the developing countries are made to lag behind because of their lack of access to information or advanced means of obtaining information.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Bangladesh fully realizes the importance and potential of information technology. It has, therefore, accorded utmost priority to this sector. Some concrete measures have been taken to create a large pool of computer literates in the country. Computer learning has been introduced in schools and colleges. Cyber cafes have been established in different corners of the country, both by private and public initiative. The main focus of this drive is to build technological prowess with the ultimate objective of achieving economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully agree with the Secretary General's assessment that there is a need to update and upgrade the UN's internal information technology capacity. This is necessary to make the entire UN system fully equipped and better integrated. This objective could only be achieved

member states and to the wider audience outside, especially in the developing world. In this