



hard to underestimate the importance for the UN image of online availability of the news in easily accessible and user-friendly format.

The recently launched e-mail news service is also a welcome addition and is certainly a feature that can help journalists, researchers, the public at large and a variety of other audiences, to get quick and easy access to the latest news from and about the United Nations. By directly reaching journalists and other disseminators, it could be viewed as an important step towards bridging the digital divide and helping to bring the latest news about the UN to the public in the countries where Internet is not yet widely available.

In this regard, we would like to note that existence of such a well-designed and informative site in all official languages would greatly enhance the Department's ability to disseminate news about the Organization. We realize, as the Secretary-General notes in his reports and as Mr. Tharoor told us in his statements, that the Department is very limited by the existing resources and continuing mandates. Nevertheless, we believe it is a direction the Department should consider as it reviews and reorients its activities.

In closing, I would like to again commend Mr. Shashi Tharoor for their able management and