



department through a strong and practical action plan, to further empower and adjust it to respond to the realities and challenges of its current tasks. It is through this department that the "voice" of the United Nations will be heard and listened to around the world, through the traditional media and the latest online technologies, and in cooperation and collaboration with a wide array of international partners.

The Committee, and the DPI can play a most useful role in not only being the voice of the global Organization to the peoples of the world, but also being a conduit to the Organization of the views of the peoples from all the regions of the world. This would thus be a two-way traffic. It would enable the identification, collation and transmittal of "best practices". It would facilitate pressing into the service of humanity the positive elements of globalization such as IT that could indeed assist societies who have missed the bus of progress to 'leap-frog' stages of development. This Committee will need to pay particular attention to the concerns of the developing countries of the South. Our actions must be guided by the need to focus on the developmental goals we have set for ourselves, such as the Millennium Declaration and MDG's. Much thinking will need to be done to organize ourselves thus, but I know for certain we have the intellectual resources and capabilities to address ourselves to these tasks.

The Department is to be congratulated for the timely issuance of the five reports on the various aspects of its work. There is also the additional report, document A/57/747 prepared by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review and structure of the operations of UN information centres. These have been placed before us for our consideration and action. The report before us on the reorientation of information UN activities in the field of public has a major sector on the areas of higher priority for the DPI containing important proposals on the information centres, multilingualism, and the UN web-site, and evaluation activities. We welcome the creative approach of DPI on these issues. We must review the new strategic vision carefully and accord the Department necessary support and guidance.

May I remind you that the General Assembly will be considering the proposed programme budget for 2004-05 this autumn. In this connection, Assembly resolution 52/220 stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, such as our Committee, in the consideration of the [narrative of the of the] proposed programme budget. It is therefore, incumbent upon us to carefully examine the programmatic aspects of the proposed budget for the DPI which is set

