

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mehdi Mollahosseini, Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (29 April 2003)

successful conclusions. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of my delegation's full support in your important task and responsibilities that lie ahead.

3. We follow with special interest the Secretary-General's proposal on restructuring and rationalizing the network of information centers around regional hubs, starting with the creation of a Western European hub. We fully agree that in high-cost developed countries whose public have greater access to a wide range of sources of information there is no need to maintain UNICs. Therefore, in the case of developed countries the proposed United Nations regional information hub and redeployment of freed resources of UN centers to the areas of higher priority, including centers in developing countries, is considered as a very positive initiative. However, applying this initiative to developing countries demands more prudent and flexible approach.

Although we see great deal of merits in guidelines and criteria for the regionalization of the United Nations Information Centers in developing countries as indicated in annex I of the report *A/AC.198/2003/2*, but in our view complexity of situation in developing countries regions, the need for direct access by their public to the United Nations Information Centers due to the lack of indirect facilities in many developing countries and significant role of Information Centers in coordinating of training and educational activities in these countries, are some of the elements which require a very flexible approach in their case.

4. We appreciate extensive efforts of the DPI on the continued development and