

Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea (1 May 2003)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election. We would also like to commend the efforts of Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communication and Information, and his team to overcome the challenges unfolding in the

use of information can be materialized to promote great wealth and prosperity, we must endeavor to ensure that its positive effects reach the whole international community. In realizing this objective, greater efforts should be exerted to promoting partnerships between developed and developing nations.

For its part, the Republic of Korea is committed to taking a proactive role in the use of information and communication technologies. We are keen to share our experiences with developing countries. The Government of the Republic of Korea has focused its cooperation policy on bridging the digital divide and supporting developing countries in achieving a more sustainable information society. In 2002, the Korean Government has trained more than four hundred individuals from developing nations in the areas of IT, Information Policy and E-business. We have also taken initiatives to establish regional information and telecommunication centers and to extend ICT projects for Asian and African nations. The

First, we recognize that in recent years, the DPI has exerted all efforts to re-orient its activities and has published several reports on them. My delegation is pleased to note that the DPI has revised its operating models and has established its organizational structure based on the recommendations in the reports. Keeping in mind that reform is a process, not an event, the DPI should continuously adapt itself in meeting the new challenges. In my delegation's view, it is essential to carry out these re-orientation and reform endeavors with efficiency, effectiveness and transparency, but without losing sight of the budgetary aspects. Therefore, we are strongly supportive of the re-evaluation of activities lacking urgency so that the resources can be diverted to other high priority areas. My delegation also wishes to underline the central role of the Committee on Information in the ongoing restructuring and reorientation process of the DPI's activities. This requires the active participation of Member States at all stages.

Second, we fully recognize that it is desirable to maintain the parity in the use of the six official UN languages in the work of the DPI. However, we can not disregard the increased operational costs and efficiency matters accompanied by the additional multilingual services. In light of this consideration, we believe that it is necessary for the DPI to explore various initiatives and other alternatives which can be implemented within the parameters of its limited resources. My delegation has taken note that Mr. Shashi Tharoor has been appointed recently as the Coordinator for multilingualism and we remain fully confident in his abilities to play a creative and innovative role.

Third, we have taken note of the Secretary-General's report that the DPI is seeking actively to expand partnerships with the private media. My delegation believes that the DPI should explore ways of establishing and broadening cooperative partnerships with large commercial sector TV networks to produce television programmes and broadca

