

Statement by Mr. Muhammad A. Muhith, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations (19 April 2005)

At the very outset, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman upon your election as the Chairman of the COI. My delegation is fully confident that under your stewardship, Mr. Chairman, the Committee will be able to lead its work to fruition. I would also like to congratulate the members of the newly-elected Bureau. Let me also thank the members of the previous Bureau for their invaluable contributions in the work of this important Committee.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the COI for electing me as the Rapporteur.

We would also like to join others in congratulating the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Shashi Tharoor, for his excellent statement, delivered yesterday, in which he provided us a detailed and clear picture of where the department stands and where he wants to take it. He was very candid, as he is always, in providing us a realistic picture of the very daunting tasks ahead. In this regard, I would like to commend the USG for his able leadership, outstanding work, innovative ideas and relentless efforts in advancing the DPI to the right direction. Thanks are also owed to the members of the DPI. I should not also fail to thank the USG and the DPI for the very useful interactive session of yesterday.

On behalf of Ambassador Iftekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury, the last Chairman of the COI, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman, the Under-Secretary-General and the distinguished delegates for having expressed their felicitations on his leadership of the COI in last two years.

Mr. Chairman,

The Bangladesh delegation associates itself with the statement made yesterday by the distinguished representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I shall therefore limit my statement to a few areas which are of importance to us.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting at a historic time for the United Nations. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary5 (s)-2 (i)18y5 (s)apTts (i)1.5 (m)und8y5 (s)ng.sfor.reet o0.6 (a )0.5 (7 (eet)0.6 (t)375 (he 2 85 (s (ider

peacekeepers, nine Bangladeshi blue helmets were killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bangladesh received this news with deep sadness and pain, but its determination to

keep supporting UN peace efforts was not weakened. In a remarkable display of solidarity, the Government of Bangladesh and its people renewed the pledge to continue supporting UN peace efforts.

We are very pleased with the way DPI brought into focus the story of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Congo. The UN Information Centre in Dhaka was also very quick in conveying the messages from the Secretary-General to Bangladesh and its people on this tragic occurrence.

Having been privileged to play a significant role in UN peacekeeping operations as one of the major troop contributing countries, Bangladesh notes with appreciation the growing partnership between DPI and DPKO in raising awareness about peacekeeping and also in preparing public information components of peacekeeping operations for rapid and effective deployment. We hope that the DPI will continue to work closely with the DPKO and the field missions to plan, staff and support the public information components of the new and expanded Missions in order to disseminate effectively the UN's success stories like peacekeeping to the people's of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to DPI's reorientation, which Bangladesh has followed with keen interest. I thank the distinguished Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information for his frank statement, in which he outlined the progress DPI has made through its reorientation exercise, but also enumerated the challenges it now

