## **AS DELIVERED**

## CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. KIYO AKASAKA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

## AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORM

up-to-date information to ke{ Spanish-speaking audiences, including through a website that pro

pour objectif de traiter

## Mr. Chairman,

In response to the statement b{ the distinguished delegate from Senegal, I should like to ezpress DPIøs appreciation for the support and, indeed, the ezcellent premises provided b{ the Government of Senegal for the UN Information Centre in Dakar. Indeed, in Februar{ this {ear I visited the UNIC and I was ver{ impressed b{ the premises provided b{ the Government of Senegal. I encourage ever{ one of {ou to visit the UNIC premises, which provides us with the opportunit{ and the facilities to do our work.

However, as for ezpanding the Centre, this is not possible within the Departmentøs current or projected financial and human resources. DPI would nonetheless welcome the opportunit { to enhance the reach of the Centre, should additional funds for increased operating costs as well as additional posts be provided.

The distinguished delegate from Bangladesh noted that the Information Centre in Dhaka has not had a Director for more than 25 {ears. Unfortunatel{}, as the Department has

I am pleased to note the positive comments on our presentation from man{ delegations, and I have taken note of the reservations ezpressed b{ the G-77 and China during our informal meetings and in the General Debate at this session.

Distinguished delegates, DPI is read{ to work with the Committee to address {our concerns. I assure {ou, once again, that õUN Affairsö will be produced within ezisting resources. We are committed to pursuing multilingual editions. With the approval of the Committee, which I continue to hope for, we can pursue pro-activel{ our earl{ contacts with ezternal publishers for editions in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. At the same time, we welcome Member Statesø willingness to engage with us and connect us to other interested institutions in their countries.

Though the formal debate has now come to a close, m{ Department looks forward to continuing our dialogue through the Bureau on these and other relevant issues. I intend to ask for the organi|ation of regular inter-sessional briefings, as we have done in the last {ear, with members of this Committee. I look forward to the outcome of {our deliberations over the coming da{s, and to the strategic direction and guidance that the Committee will provide through its recommendations to the General Assembl{ at its sizt{-fourth session.}

Thank {ou.

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