

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
AMBASSADOR ANTONIO LIMA**

continuing “digital divide” remains a stumbling block for many developing countries to take full advantage of the unfolding cyber revolution. In that meeting, I emphasized that while the new technologies can spur growth, reduce poverty and help reach other development goals, this can happen only if – and when – the digital wall that now stands between the developed and developing countries comes down.

I was pleased to note that Mr. Akasaka in his response – and DPI in the reports of the Secretary General on its programmatic activities – underscored the need for a balanced approach. Mr. Akasaka reiterated that DPI, in its search for more effective and cost effective communications tools, would not abandon the so called traditional media. In fact, he told us, new media would be used to complement the traditional media, especially radio and TV.

DPI’s job is to inform the world about the work of the UN, but it is our responsibility to keep DPI informed about the priorities agreed to by Member States. This is possible when we work together, hand in hand. This Committee looks forward to working with you, Mr. Akasaka, and with your Department, to build upon the achievements realized by DPI over the last few years.

In this connection, I recall with appreciation, that at DPI’s invitation, I attended the annual DPI seminar on the peace process in the Middle East, corealized by the

We all agree that this sense of optimism and common purpose can best be conveyed through DPI, the UN's public voice. Clearly, DPI has the tools and the expertise to do this job well. I would like to consider this Committee as a natural partner in this endeavour. However, to be an effective partner of DPI, the Committee itself must also consider ways and means to strengthen its role. Over the next two weeks, that is exactly what we intend to do.

Distinguished delegates,

This year's session will provide us with an opportunity to review DPI activities via a vis the mandates given to it by the Committee and the General Assembly. Taken together, these reports provide a clear picture of DPI activities. I congratulate the Department on producing such results based reports and on their timely publication.

A fourth report, the Strategic Framework for 2012 – 2013, issued for the Committee on Programme and Coordination, is also before you for review and reflection. This document outlines the overall orientation of the Department, including the strategy and logical framework for each of the Department's three divisions for the next budget cycle. It is my understanding that CPC will review this document in June this year. As COI is the main deliberative body dealing with public information, I encourage you to take a closer look at this document and share your views and critical observations with other Committee Members and with DPI. These views, taken together, will be conveyed to CPC for its consideration.

Distinguished delegates,

The task before us is the adoption of a consensus document at the end of our deliberations, and the overarching objective is to collectively provide through this resolution the best possible policy guidance to the Department so that our Organization continues to benefit from the strong voice given to it by DPI. As your Chairman, I promise to do my part. I am sure you will do yours. Thank you. from the