

Statement by Minister Takahiro Nakamae, Delegation of Japan (24 April 2012)

Mr. Chairman,

First, I would like to emulate the other speakers in thanking Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri of Costa Rica for chairing this meeting of the 34th Committee on Information. Through your able leadership, I am confident that the 34th Session of the Committee will be a productive and efficient session. As always, Japan extends its full support to you and the bureau of the Committee and we will actively participate in this important discussion.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Nasser of the Department of Public Information (DPI) for delivering the comprehensive statement on their activities, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General A/AC/198/2012/2, 3 and 4 regarding the activities of the Department in the areas of strategic communications services, news services, and outreach. I hope that DPI will continue to work to enhance its effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, while actively engaging in public relations activities which provide timely, accurate and coherent information on the works of the Organization.

In addition, I would be amiss not to extend my deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, who has over the course of five years served as the Under-Secretary-General of DPI, during which he also served as the UN's Coordinator for Multilingualism. H.E. Mr. Akasaka's dedication to the improvement and efficacy of DPI is evident in his work as the de facto spokesperson for all of the Organization's priorities, from the promotion of UN Women, UN Academic Impact initiative, Stand Up Against Poverty campaigns, to his most recent work to promote and educate the public on Rio+20, and countless more achievements.

Mr. Chairman,

DPI plays a crucial role in the United Nations with regards to international peace and security, human rights, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), climate change and sustainable development, gender equality, peacekeeping operations, and other important issues in its function as the principle department of the UN to communicate the work of Organization to the world's diverse audience. Without such important work being done effectively and efficiently, the United Nations would not gain the essential support necessary from the

Mr. Chairman,

As many of my colleagues have pointed out, the problem of a growing information gap between developed and developing countries continues to affect the balance of public information activities in areas where the people need it most of all. Japan highly appreciates DPI's efforts to combine traditional and new communication tools in this "new world of information and communication order" as it has been termed, so that countries on both sides of the gap can participate in raising the awareness of their nationals of the important work of the Organization. In this regard, Japan also expects DPI to continue to exercise fiscal discipline and increase its efforts to enhancing the efficiency of these activities through the promotion of greater internal communication, networking closely with relevant UN agencies,

weapons. The recent launch by the DPRK is a reminder that there is much to do in this