

Statement by Mr. Johann Aeschlimann, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (25 April 2012)

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you and assure you and the bureau of our full support.

My delegation would like to thank acting Under-Secretary-General Naher Nasser and the former Under-Secretary General Akasaka for their detailed reporting on the activities of the Department of Information over the past year. We would like to commend the Department for its work which is of increasing importance to the United Nation's success in a rapidly changing world. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the achievements of the

challenges such as "Delivering as One" or the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. We expect DPI to be a key supporter of these endeavors.

This does not mean the traditional media should be neglected. We are fully aware that in large parts of the world, it is neither the computer nor the mobile phone that is the main source of information. We would like to particularly underline the continuing importance of radio. Switzerland supports the Swiss-based "Hirondelle" — Foundation which operates in cooperation with the UN highly trusted radio stations in several countries, the largest operation being Radio "Okapi" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Finally, let me draw your attention to the upcoming international Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East which is convened by DPI every year and which Switzerland has the honor to host this year. The Seminar will take place on 12 and 13 June in Geneva. It will give an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Arab uprisings on the situation in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

It is important that the Member States engage in the information efforts of the United Nations in a forward-looking and constructive way. We look forward to a results-oriented negotiation of our resolution and we think the draft provided by G-77 is a good basis.

Thank you.