

Unofficial translation

**STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
SERGEY V.TREPELKO
IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 33 “QUESTIONS
RELATING TO INFORMATION”**

October 13, 2005

Dear Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to welcome you as a Chairman and also to thank Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Shashi Tharoor for his detailed statement which represents an important complement to the Secretary General's report A/60/173 submitted for our consideration.

On the whole we positively assess the results of the 3-year work of reforming and reorienting the UN activities in the area of information and communications initiated by the Secretary-General's proposals contained in the report A/57/387 of September 2002.

We support the concrete steps made by the DPI in this regard to implement the new strategic goals, structural reforms and functional priorities. We are convinced that the consistent and interested approach of the DPI leadership can ensure a steady progress in addressing the tasks ahead of the Department. We call to keep the pace and to firmly adhere to the course of establishing the culture of communication as one of the key elements in the reform and enhancement of efficiency of the whole UN system.

At the same time we deem it necessary once again to draw the attention of the DPI to the need to continue its efforts on dissemination of information which is really crucial and strategic for the United Nations in light of the decisions taken at Summit 2005, namely, maintenance of international peace, assistance in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the UN reform, conflict prevention, overcoming poverty and fighting new threats and challenges to security, among which international terrorism is the principal one.

Speaking at the UN Security Council meeting on September 14, 2005 Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized that "it is necessary to use not only states' resources but those of civil society, mass media, cultural and educational cooperation, and

interconfessional dialogue to oppose terrorist propaganda, racist ideology, and national and religious intolerance”.

A new important step strengthening the legal framework for countering terrorism was made when during Summit 2005 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1624 proposed by the United Kingdom. It has outlawed not only terrorists, their accomplices and financiers, but also those inciting terrorist acts. We believe that this decision of the UN Security Council will become a serious barrier for those who try to use and to offer media for incitement, propaganda and justification of terrorism.

We believe an important preventive contribution to this fight on the information front was made through the series of seminars “Unlearning Intolerance” launched by the DPI with a view to examining different manifestations of intolerance and exploring ways in which education and civil society may help overcome them. Our delegation notes with satisfaction the success of such seminars on anti-Semitism, Islamofobia and the role of media in teaching tolerance.

We note the important and useful work of the DPI on elaboration of the draft communications strategy to fight terrorism and also its wide support in the field of public information to the newly established Executive Directorate of the Counter-terrorism Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to closely follow the Department’s work of comprehensive development and improvement of the network of the UN Information Centers. We support the renewed plan of rationalizing the UN Information Centers that has been reviewed taking into account the specificity of contemporary political, geographic and linguistic realities, financial possibilities and also opinions of the interested countries and regional groups

voiced in the Committee on Information and the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly.

In this regard, we would like to specially note the steady and efficient work of the UN Information Center in Moscow, which plays a coordinating role in the outreach activities of the system of UN agencies. We support the idea mentioned in the Secretary General's report (A/AC.198/2005/3) about increasing in future its role at regional level, as the rationalization of the UN Information Centers goes on.

In this very context we think it is important to note that in response to the request of the DPI leadership the issue of freeing the UNIC Moscow from the cost of rent and maintenance is under consideration now to be resolved as a part of the problem of finding location for the UN country office in Moscow.

Mr.Chairman,

We continue to follow the DPI's work on improving and streamlining the activities of the UN libraries. We support the mechanism within the Steering Committee on Modernization of the UN libraries which is meant to play the central coordinating role in developing impartial recommendations on how to enhance effectiveness and accessibility of the Organization's library services.

Mr.Chairman,

We positively view the DPI's commitment to the principle of multilingualism and equality of official languages which should not only be reaffirmed by the General Assembly on a regular basis but should also be reflected in practice through delivery of equal information services both in quantity and in quality for the Member States.

We support the Department's concrete steps to ensure the language parity in the UN web-site, news center and international radio broadcasting service.

We would like to specially note the successful functioning of the Russian version of the UN web-site and of the News Center and radio service in Russian language which become more and more popular among Russian-speaking users. We are convinced that implementation of the new project in the Russian service of the UN radio entitled “60 years in 60 minutes” dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the United Nations will contribute to this.

We also welcome the Department’s efforts to improve the UN Chronicles which are published in all official languages, can be accessed at the UN web-site and are more frequently used for learning and outreach purposes.

Mr.Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, the Russian delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor personally as well as to the DPI leadership and its officers for the constructive cooperation, assistance and support in organizing and conducting joint activities (exhibitions, concerts, performances, film screenings) dedicated to the interconnected jubilees: 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and 60th anniversary of the United Nations, which are common for all of us and which will be celebrated till the end of this year.

In conclusion, Mr.Chairman, let me express my confidence that the decisions adopted at the current UN General Assembly session on the issues of information will bring us closet to the achievement of the goals set and serve as a good basis for further activities.

Thank you.

