



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
24 April 2006

Original: English

Committee on Information

Twenty-eighth session

24 April-5 May 2006

Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session

Draft report

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–5	2
II. Organizational questions	6–12	4
A. Opening of the session	6	4
B. Election of officers	7	4
C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work	8–10	4
D. Observers	11–12	5

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

“(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

“(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

“(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly;”

and requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. In its resolution 35/201, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Committee, approved its report and the recommendations of its Ad Hoc Working Group,¹ reaffirmed the mandate given to the Committee in its resolution 34/182 and decided to increase the membership of the Committee from 66 to 67. At its organizational session in 1980, the Committee agreed that the principle of geographical rotation would be applied to all the officers of the Committee and that they should be elected for two-year terms of office.

3. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to fifty-ninth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixtieth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee² and adopted consensus resolutions 60/109 A and B.

4. Over the years, the membership of the Committee has grown. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to increase the membership of the Committee from 107 to 108 and appointed Austria as a member of the Committee.

5. The Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Belarus
Angola	Belgium
Argentina	Belize
Armenia	Benin
Austria	Brazil
Azerbaijan	Bulgaria
Bangladesh	Burkina Faso

Burundi	Malta
Cape Verde	Mexico
Chile	Monaco
China	Mongolia
Colombia	Morocco
Congo	Mozambique
Costa Rica	Nepal
Côte d'Ivoire	Netherlands
Croatia	Niger
Cuba	Nigeria
Cyprus	Pakistan
Czech Republic	Peru
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Philippines
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Ecuador	Republic of Korea
Egypt	Qatar
El Salvador	Republic of Moldova
Ethiopia	Romania
Finland	Russian Federation
France	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Gabon	Saudi Arabia
Georgia	Senegal
Germany	Singapore
Ghana	Slovakia
Greece	Solomon Islands
Guatemala	Somalia
Guinea	South Africa
Guyana	Spain
Hungary	Sri Lanka
Iceland	Sudan
India	Suriname
Indonesia	Switzerland
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Syrian Arab Republic
Ireland	Togo
Israel	Trinidad and Tobago
Italy	Tunisia
Jamaica	Turkey
Japan	Ukraine
Jordan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Kazakhstan	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	United States of America
Lebanon	Uruguay
Liberia	Venezuela
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Viet Nam
Luxembourg	Yemen
Madagascar	Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

6. The organizational meeting of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Information was held on 24 April 2006 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Mihnea Ioan Motoc (Romania).

B. Election of officers

7. Following the departure of Sebastião Filipe Coelho Ferreira, Vice-Chairman (Portugal) at the end of his tour of duty at United Nations Headquarters, Ruedi Christen (Switzerland) was nominated by the Group of Western European and other States to serve as a Vice-Chairman in his place for the remainder of the 2005-2006 term. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2005-2006 are thus as follows:

Chairman:

Mihnea Ioan Motoc (Romania)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Souad Elalaoui (Morocco)

Ruedi Christen (Switzerland)

Marcelo Suárez Salvia (Argentina)

Rapporteur:

Muhammad A. Muhith (Bangladesh)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

8. At its organizational meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2006/6):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
6. General debate.
7. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
8. Commemoration of World Press Freedom Day.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

9. The Committee held the substantive meetings of its twenty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 April to 5 May 2006.

10. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the continued rationalization of the network of United Nations information centres (A/AC.198/2006/1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the modernization and integrated management of United Nations libraries: update on new strategic directions (A/AC.198/2006/2);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations website: recent developments and progress towards parity among the official languages (A/AC.198/2006/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on assessing the effectiveness of United Nations public information products and activities: the results of a three-year evaluation project (A/AC.198/2006/4 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/2006/5).

D. Observers

11. The following Member States took part in the session as observers: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Tajikistan and Thailand. The Holy See also participated as an observer.

12. Representatives of the following specialized agencies also participated as observers: World Health Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/35/21), annex, sect. V.*

² *Ibid., Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/60/21).*