



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 April 2008

Original: English

Committee on Information

Thirtieth session

28 April-9 May 2008

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

Draft report

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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, 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 sixty-first sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixty-second session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 62/111 A and B.

4. Currently 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	Hungary
Cape Verde	Iceland
Chile	India
China	Indonesia
Colombia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Congo	Ireland
Costa Rica	Israel
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy
Croatia	Jamaica
Cuba	Japan
Cyprus	Jordan
Czech Republic	Kazakhstan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kenya
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lebanon
Denmark	Liberia
Dominican Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Ecuador	Luxembourg
Egypt	Madagascar
El Salvador	Malta
Ethiopia	Mexico
Finland	Moldova
France	Monaco
Gabon	Mozambique
Georgia	Nepal
Germany	Netherlands
Ghana	Niger
Greece	Nigeria
Guatemala	Pakistan
Guinea	Peru
Guyana	Philippines

Poland	Switzerland
Portugal	Syrian Arab Republic
Republic of Korea	Thailand
Qatar	Togo
Romania	Trinidad and Tobago
Russian Federation	Tunisia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Turkey
Saudi Arabia	Ukraine
Singapore	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Senegal	United Republic of Tanzania
Slovakia	United States of America
Solomon Islands	Uruguay
Somalia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
South Africa	Viet Nam
Spain	Yemen
Sri Lanka	Zimbabwe
Sudan	
Suriname	

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

5. The organizational meeting of the thirtieth session of the Committee on Information was held on 28 April 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the Acting Chairman of the Committee, Marc Emilian Morar (Romania).

B. Election of officers

6. Following the departure of Rudolf Christen, Chairman (Switzerland), and Estevão Umba Alberto, Vice-Chairman (Angola), at the end of their tour of duty at United Nations Headquarters, Andreas Baum (Switzerland) was elected to serve as Chairman and Xavier Santa Rosa (Angola) as a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2007-2008 term. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2007-2008 are as follows:

Chairman:

Andreas Baum (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairmen:

Xavier Santa Rosa (Angola)

Marcelo Suárez Salvia (Argentina)

Marc Emilian Morar (Romania)

Rapporteur:

Hossein Maleki (Islamic Republic of Iran)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

7. At its organizational meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2008/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Statement by the Chairperson.
5. Admission of new members.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
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-third session.

8. The Committee held its general debate from 28 to 30 April 2008. On 28 April, in the afternoon, the Department of Public Information, led by its Under-Secretary-General, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information (part I) (A/AC.198/2008/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information (part II) (A/AC.198/2008/3).

D. Observers

10. The following Member States took part in the session as observers: Afghanistan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Slovenia and United Arab Emirates. Palestine also participated in the session as an observer.

11. Representatives of the International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also participated in the session as observers.
