



continued campaigns on issues of importance to the international community. These issues are, among others, decolonization, peacekeeping, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, Dialogue among Civilizations, and the follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society as well as the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

8. The Group also emphasizes the importance of the DPI's Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine in raising the international community's awareness of the Question of Palestine and in supporting the efforts to achieve a just lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions.

9. In this connection, the Group of 77 and China commends the DPI for its implementation of this important Programme and underscores many of its necessary and useful elements such as the annual training for Palestinian media professionals from the Occupied Palestinian Territory that aims at assisting them in the development of their media skills and capacity. We reiterate the need for these and other activities undertaken by the DPI and call for their further enhancement and reinforcement.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to the role and work of the Network of United Nations Information Centers (UNICs). We, therefore, urge that all possible measures be taken to strengthen the UNICs. These Centers are a vital source for the flow of information as they help to bridge the gap between the developed and developing countries in terms of access to information and communication technologies. The Group of 77 and China wishes to underline that any decision pertaining to reorganizing the UNICs must be made in close consultation with the host countries, and take into account the geographical, linguistic and technological characters and needs of different regions.

11. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the resolution A/RES/64/243 adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 which decided to establish the United Nations Information Center in Luanda, as a contribution to

13. At the same time, the Group emphasizes the importance of continuing the use of traditional media, including both radio and prints, in disseminating the main messages of the United Nations. Traditional media has been and still is the primary means of communication in many developing countries. The Group also continues to underscore the importance of the closer co-operation between the DPI and other substantive Departments in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS).

14. In conclusion, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to assure you of our full support and of our constructive and active engagement during this session. We are confident that under your able stewardship the COI will once again reach a successful outcome

I thank you.