

As-delivered version

; et we still have the blueprint to build a better world in the + !s. Its rainbow wheel continues to inspire people all over the world. ( e're planning a renewed communications effort in the lead&up to the + ! +ummit : which I'm going to go over a little bit in our interactive session : and we hope that this will put the spotlight back into the accelerated solutions needed to get back on track with #genda <=>=.

+o, later this morning, after I speak, we will have our infor

The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has worked alongside UN partners to organize the Forum. This is going to bring together young people from around the world to discuss their ideas, concerns and actions, specifically around the Sustainable Development Goals, and discuss these with government representatives, policymakers, UN officials and other stakeholders.

In the coming months, the Department will continue to support the Secretary-General's efforts to implement the General Assembly's resolution on the establishment of the UN Youth Office, which will integrate the activities of the Office of the Envoy on Youth. This will be an important step forward in strengthening the partnership between the UN and young people and ensuring meaningful youth engagement in intergovernmental policymaking and decision-making.

Mr. Chair,

The same approach to partnerships, including with influencers, is applied to what we do in our climate communications. For the launch of the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, Synthesis Report, our social media content was amplified by UN Goodwill Ambassadors, Messengers of Peace, UN Advocates, and other high-profile UN influencers, reaching nearly 8 million followers. So, basically, we give our content to these UN influencers and reach 8 million people, so it's a really good method of distribution.

To coincide with the release of the Synthesis Report, the Secretary-General also launched his BinkedIn account, and so far, in just a few weeks, he has 1.5 million followers already. BinkedIn prominently is promoting his account and featured the Secretary-General's article on the report in a GTop Voices account on the subject. At the same time, UN-IC Tokyo used trusted weather presenters to amplify its GPromise of 8.5°C campaign.

The Department's web and climate teams, meanwhile, have worked extensively over recent months on the UN Climate Action site, adding new segments and features. UN Video has reinforced its coverage, producing videos featuring students and activists in their own languages. UN News content on climate action continues to account for a significant number of visits to the platform in all languages.

We are also partnering with digital platforms and harnessing their enormous reach to ensure that audiences are more likely to see accurate information about the climate rather than further misinformation.

This past Saturday: as we all know, it was Earth Day: if you went to Google on Earth Day, there would be what's called a Google doodle, which is the first thing you see at the top of the home page on a given day. And this Google doodle pointed users to UN climate content, including links to our Act Now campaign of individual actions. If it's anything like it was last year, it will drive



deliver humanitarian assistance on behalf of the , - family and the international community. ( e are working closely with key offices, including PP# and ++, to ensure that we are ma"imi3ing awareness of what the , - is doing right now and also without leopardi3ing anyone's safety.

I would like to now turn to the , kraine war, which has been a focus of our communications since this war began. #s a epartment we meet regularly, in this conte"t of crisis communications, both internally as well as with other , - offices, and we adapt our communications regularly according to the changing circumstances. 6f course, our coverage and media engagement focus on the humanitarian situation as well as the human rights conse/uences. But we also look at efforts to bring about peace and ameliorate the suffering.

6ur , - -ews , kraine focus page provides updates on all angles of

Misinformation and disinformation, along with hate speech, have become so ubiquitous that it is impossible to be a communications professional today and not have to deal with it. From climate change to COVID-19 vaccines, we have already observed the impacts of a concerted campaign of lies, denials and distortions. But increasingly, however, the United Nations is finding that it's not just our ability to fulfil our mandates that is at stake. It is our staff that are often under direct attack.

This is particularly true in the field, although we do get our share of hate online as UN staff members, including myself, but it's most concerning to our colleagues in the field. Our blue helmets, our humanitarian aid workers and our development staff are being deliberately targeted. I think I mentioned this at the informal briefing : in a survey last year of UN peacekeepers, 60% of them reported that misinformation and disinformation were impacting their safety and security.

UN Resident Coordinators, peace envoys and peacekeeping missions are turning more and more to our Department and asking for our assistance, both to anticipate and also combat these online attacks. To that end, we are working with other key Secretariat departments to establish a standing capacity so we can better respond to this problem.

Our global UN-IC network, which is skilled at understanding local audiences and languages, will be a key component of this capacity. We are going to be working to upskill our colleagues. Many of them are already extensively engaging on this issue.

One example: UN-IC Mexico City launched a video series to promote digital literacy. UN-IC Ouagadougou organized an information session with Fasocheck, the leading fact-checking entity in Burkina Faso, for UN staff operating in that country. UN-IC Brussels created



transatlantic slave trade : it's really, really worth going to our YouTube channel to watch his statement. He is truly amazing.

Meanwhile, the Department has begun preparations to later this year stage the annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East and the annual Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists, which since last year has been named after Ahdieh, the Palestinian-American reporter who was killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory last May.

Mr. Chair,

Multilingualism is the lifeblood of our work. Without it we would not be able to reach and engage audiences. The challenge, of course, as I have said here many times, is to find sufficient resources to make multilingualism a reality. Where possible we do use technology to serve us, but even in the age of artificial intelligence, it is not always possible to deliver.

So on this front, though, I am delighted to announce that : thanks to your generosity as Member States in providing additional staff resources in this year's budget : , - ( UN recently launched its website in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish, complementing the existing English language version. This means that meetings of the General Assembly, Security Council and other key , - organs, are now available both live and on-demand in all six official languages. It's nice to have some good news sometimes.

The Department also began a new , multilingual newsletter. And, on International Mother Language Day in February, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library launched its publication Multilingualism at the United Nations. To support Model , - , the Department published English, French and Portuguese versions of The United Nations Guide to Model UN. We will continue to seek creative ways to expand our multilingual footprint.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce the launch of a new digital workflow at the Library, which provides comprehensive analysis and metadata creation capability for , - parliamentary and normative documents as well as , - publications. This innovation replaces a system the Library had been using since the late 1990s and it should make it much easier for researchers, policymakers, and citizens alike to tap into the rich online resources of the Organization.

This past year the Department continued to digitize, catalogue and selectively post items in the , - 's historic audiovisual collection. This project was made possible through a donation by the Government of Oman. So far, we have digitized audio, video, and film items, which is about 25% of our initial target. Additionally, we are preparing a new edition of the popular guide, Basic Facts about the United Nations, which was last published six years ago.

Distinguished delegates,

Today is an especially auspicious day to kick off the annual session of the Committee on Information. In 1988 the General Assembly declared April to be the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, in order to promote the values of the , - , reaffirm the faith in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter and the importance and relevance



of multilateralism and international law and to advance the common goal of lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy.H

This is a message that resonates for us at ! C. #s we strive to achieve these lofty goals, alongside all of you, I look forward to hearing from you throughout this session, and beyond. Thank you.

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