Statement

by

Mr. Vachara Pawutiyapong
First Secretary

at the general debate of 37th session of
the Committee on Information

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Building Bridges for Partnership
THAILAND
ASEAN Candidate for the UN Security Council 2017 – 2018

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation’s congratulations to you and the members of the bureau on the well-deserved election. I also wish to express our sincere appreciation to ambassador Al-Mughairy of Oman and her bureau members for their dedication to the work of the Committee over the past two years.

We take note of the three reports submitted in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 69/96 B on key advances made by the Department of Public Information (DPI). We welcome Ms. Cristina Gallach as the new Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, and thank her for the remarks on the work of DPI as well as for her participation in the informal interactive dialogue yesterday. We wish her every success at the helm of this important Department.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and wishes to reiterate the following points in my national capacity:

First, DPI is instrumental to the organization’s relevance and credibility by connecting the works of the United Nations to the people that it ultimately serves. This is of particular significance this year as we undertake the task of charting the direction and priorities of the global development agenda for the decades to come. Thailand calls on DPI to raise awareness of and widely disseminate information on the three high-level meetings on the global development process, namely the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the 2015 Climate Change Summit.

Second, Thailand recognizes and appreciates DPI’s ongoing outreach activities for young people, in particular those of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. We wish to stress the importance of empowering and strengthening the voice of youths, while safeguarding from incitement, hate speech and violent extremism. DPI can contribute to this process by promoting the culture of peace, tolerance and mutual respect in its youth programmes.

Third, as expressed by many speakers before this Committee, multilingualism enhances the transparency and accountability of the United Nations. It allows more people to access and better understand the work of the United Nations. We therefore call on DPI to continue its efforts in mainstreaming multilingualism in all its works and activities, in particular through the use of local languages where the United Nation Information Centres or other United Nations agencies operate or have their presence.

Finally, we commend DPI’s effort in utilizing information and communications technology, such as multilingual websites and social media platforms, to reach a wider audience in a timely manner. That being said, in light of the persistent digital divide, DPI activities through traditional media such as prints, television and radio broadcasts, must continue, as they remain the primary means of communication in the developing world.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I wish to express Thailand’s readiness to work with you and members of the bureau as well as to constructively contribute to the work of the Committee in the current session.