



## General Assembly GA/SPD/534

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

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Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
Fourth Committee  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting (AM)

### **UNITED NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF TELLS MEMBERS STATES IN FOURTH COMMITTEE**

#### **'WORKING WITH YOU, WE CAN WIN SUPPORT OF PEOPLES YOU REPRESENT'**

##### **As Agenda Moves to Questions of Information, Speakers Stress Need to Keep Global Tragedies in Spotlight, Design 'Cost-Neutral' Strategy for Language Parity**

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#### **Background**

The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) was due to begin its annual consideration of questions relating to information, for which it had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the topic (document [A/68/315](#)), as well as that of the Committee on Information (document [A/68/21](#)).

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#### **Statements**

PETER THOMSON ( Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recognized the Department's contribution to the significant progress made in public information. Still, many developing countries faced challenges accessing information about the Organization's activities, he said, attaching special importance to the Special Information Programme on the question of Palestine, ...

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EDWIN YABO ...

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The advent of new technologies, he added, had transformed the communications landscape and facilitated the rapid dissemination of information, and Israel had been among the first to embrace those developments. As far back as 1995, it had launched the "computer for every child" programme, which had resulted in the distribution of tens of thousands of computers. Over time, that project had evolved into a mission to provide a tablet for every child, with the aim of closing the digital gap and allowing Israeli youngsters from families with reduced means to receive the latest technology. At the same time, Israel was concerned about the Department's Special Information Programme on the question of Palestine. The outcome of a General Assembly resolution, it offered "a narrative of our region that was biased and misleading". Israeli Government officials would remain obliged not to participate in its seminars until a more even-handed approach was adopted.

ABDOU SALAM DIALLO ( Senegal) ... supported the Special Information Programme on the question of Palestine, as well as the role played by the Information Centres to inform the world population about such activities, as well as about the need for Palestinians to have their own State and achieve their alienable right to

self-determination.

IHAB HAMED ( [Syria](#) ) ...

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... His country also wished to stress the need for the Department to scale up efforts on the matter of Palestine, in line with General Assembly resolutions, given the increased suffering of the Palestinian people caused by the Israeli occupation of their Territories. ...

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ELLEONORA TAMBUNAN ( [Indonesia](#) ), associating herself with the Group of 77 and ASEAN, ...

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On Palestine, she said Indonesia recognized the excellent work of the Department and encouraged it to continue and to “spare no effort” in informing the world of United Nations’ endeavours to achieve peace in the Middle East. She welcomed the joint work done by the United Nations News Centre and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in creating a multimedia presentation about Palestinian refugees affected by the Syrian crisis and the Agency’s efforts to assist them. She also encouraged the Department to continue its programme of training of Palestinian journalists. She commended the Information Centres for taking the Organization’s message to the most remote places of the globe.

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