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Questions relating to information

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/96 B, provides highlights of recent strategic communications work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat on such key issues as the Millennium Development Goals, international peace and security, human rights, the question of Palestine and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The activities of the network of United Nations information centres, whose support is crucial to the implementation of the Department's communications campaigns, are also reviewed. The report highlights the Department's services to the media and civil society, with a particular emphasis on the expanded use of new information and communications technologies. It also provides an update on the Department's educational outreach activities, including the organization of a global Model United Nations for university-level students and the newly launched Academic Impact Initiative involving institutions of higher learning worldwide.

*A/65/150.

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 83 of its resolution 64/96 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department submitted three reports for consideration by the Committee on Information at its thirty-second session, held from 26 April to 7 May 2010 (A/AC.198/2010/2, 3 and 4). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to those reports are reflected in its report to the Assembly (A/65/21).

2. The present report updates the information provided to the Committee on Information at its thirty-second session, and describes activities undertaken by the Department from February to July 2010 through its three subprogrammes: strategic communications services, news services and outreach services.

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II. Strategic communications services

A. Thematic issues

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Question of Palestine

18. The Department, in cooperation with the Government of Portugal, organized its annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East, in Lisbon, on 22 and 23 July. The seminar focused on the role of the media, particularly new media, in advancing the Middle East peace process, including efforts by civil society. The seminar also focused on the role of Israeli and Palestinian women in achieving peace and security in the Middle East, in connection with the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in October 2010. Over 100 participants from the Middle East, Portugal and other parts of the world attended.

- Among the media outlets represented were: *The Jerusalem Post*, Palestine News and Information Agency (WAFA), *Al-Arabi Kuwaiti Magazine*, Reporters Without Borders, SABA Yemen News Agency, *Jeune Afrique*, Israeli TV channel 1, *Visão*, Rusya al-Yaum Arabic Channel, Russia Today, Maan News Agency, *Yedioth Ahronot*, *Maariv*, *Johannesburg Star*, *Jerusalem Report*, Spanish News Agency, *Voice of Women*, *Jordan Times*, *Irish Times*, Lendforpeace.org, *El Mawqef Al Arabi* and *The Forward*.

19. The Department selected 10 young Palestinian journalists (two men and eight women) for its annual training programme, which will take place from 1 November to 10 December 2010. The programme aims to strengthen the participants' capacity as broadcast media professionals, including training with Internet-based media in the Arabic language.

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