NACIONES UNIDAS **A**

Asamblea General

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/9/G/3
29 de julio de 2008

ESPAÑOL
Original: INGLÉS

CONSEJO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
Noveno período de sesiones
Temas 3 y 8 de la agenda

PROMOCIÓN Y PROTECCIÓN DE TODOS LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, CIVILES, POLÍTICOS, ECONÓMICOS, SOCIALES Y CULTURALES, INCLUIDO EL DERECHO AL DESARROLLO

SEGUIMIENTO Y APLICACIÓN DE LA DECLARACIÓN Y PROGRAMA DE ACCIÓN DE VIENA

Carta de fecha 10 de julio de 2008 dirigida al Presidente del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por el Encargado de Negocios interino de la Misión Permanente de Cuba ante las Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

Tengo el honor de señalar a su atención la Séptima Conferencia de Ministros de Información de los Países No Alineados (COMINAC VII), celebrada en la Isla Margarita (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) del 2 al 4 de julio de 2008, sobre el tema "Desafíos y propuestas para la promoción de una voz objetiva del Sur frente a las tendencias actuales en las esferas de la información y las comunicaciones".

En la Conferencia, los Ministros de Información del Movimiento de los Países No Alineados aprobaron dos importantes documentos que constituyen una contribución valiosa a la promoción y protección de los derechos humanos, en particular el derecho a la libertad de opinión y de expresión, así como el derecho a la información adecuada. Se trata de los documentos siguientes:

- La Declaración de Isla Margarita sobre la promoción de una voz objetiva del Sur frente a las tendencias actuales en las esferas de la información y las comunicaciones; y

- El Programa de acción de Isla Margarita sobre la promoción de una voz objetiva del Sur frente a las tendencias actuales en las esferas de la información y las comunicaciones.

Teniendo en cuenta la importancia de estos documentos y su pertinencia para la labor del Consejo de Derecho Humanos, le solicito que tenga a bien distribuirlos como documentos oficiales del Consejo en su noveno período de sesiones, en relación con los temas 3 y 8 de la agenda[1]. Adjunto los textos de ambos documentos en árabe, español, francés e inglés a fin de facilitar el acceso de todos a esa información.

[1] Tanto la Declaración como el Programa de acción se distribuyen como se presentaron, en los idiomas originales únicamente.

Annex

[Original: Arabic, English, French and Spanish]

ISLA MARGARITA DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION OF AN OBJECTIVE VOICE FROM THE SOUTH IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT TRENDS IN THE FIELDS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

1. The Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VII) was held on Isla Margarita (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), 2-4 July 2008, under the theme "Challenges and proposals for the objective dissemination of the voice of the South in the face of the current trends in the fields of information and communications".

2. COMINAC VII took place three years after the fruitful Malaysian chairmanship of NAM and of the organization of COMINAC VI in Kuala Lumpur, 19-22 November 2005, where the decision was made to hold COMINAC VII. This decision was later endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of its 14th Summit Conference.

Current trends in the fields of information and communications

3. The Ministers reviewed the global trends and developments in information and communication and noted that the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries continues unabated.

4. Noting that the continued situation of lopsided information places the vast majority of mankind at a disadvantage, the Ministers reaffirmed the need for urgent redress of the imbalances.

5. The Ministers advocated the implementation of concrete strategies and actions that boost cooperation among Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries with regards to information and communications processes.

6. The Ministers noted that decreasing costs of communications and easy access to Internet services now afforded Member Countries an unprecedented opportunity to increase information linkages among them. Therefore, the Ministers urged all Member Countries to take advantage of the advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) to forge these links.

7. The Ministers emphasized the need to make effective use of media and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a view to contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development for the attainment of a more peaceful just and prosperous world.

8. The Ministers acknowledged that to fully harness ICT in developing countries, it is essential to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and exclusion that prevent developing countries from joining and fully participating in the Information Society.

9. The Ministers agreed that member countries should work to promote the inclusion of local heritage in their respective ICTs strategies.

10. The Ministers expressed their serious concern at the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries. In this regard, they called for the adoption of adequate measures that can bridge this gap and develop programmes for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those from developing countries who risk being left behind and excluded from this process.

11. The Ministers strongly condemned the imposition of unilateral and coercive measures that violate international law and the United Nations Charter, prevent the full achievement of social and economic development of the people living in the affected countries and undermine the well-being of their citizens, while discouraging, precluding and impeding their participation in the international market of ICT services, in particular in terms of access to, development and use of software, hardware and networks, including the Internet.

12. The Ministers assessed the performance of Member Countries in the field of information and communication during the last nine years and noted their continuing and increasing efforts to bring about balanced and free flow of information.

13. The Ministers acknowledged the increased efforts being made by some Member Countries and other developing nations to develop their information and communication networks. In this regard, they welcomed TELESUR as a means to promote an objective voice of our countries of the South.

14. Welcoming all the media projects of the regions of the South, the Ministers decided, on a priority basis, to prepare a list of all institutions of developing countries that contribute to the promotion of South-South flow of information. In this regard, they entrusted the Chairman of COMINAC to contact member countries and to prepare the list, as well as to initiate contacts with those organizations with the aim of promoting further cooperation among them.

15. The Ministers reiterated their call for greater investments in the relevant ICT according to the specific situation and capacity of each country in efforts to move forward the interests of the respective countries as well as the interests of the Member Countries as a whole.

16. The Ministers acknowledged the influence and growing role of media in modern public information and communication processes and agreed to further encourage private practitioners to complement the information and communication efforts of government agencies within the context of social responsibility.

The struggle for a New Information and Communications World Order

17. The Ministers observed that the long history of the struggle for a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO), notwithstanding the salient objectives are yet to be realized.

18. The Ministers reaffirmed their common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

19. The Ministers regretted the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of international information and communications. They highlighted the serious consequences that this negative situation has on NAM members and recommended to counter this problem through relevant international organizations and agencies such as ITU, UNESCO, etc; which should consider this issue and come out with appropriate strategies to reduce these imbalances and inequalities.

20. The Ministers recognized the importance of coordinated NAM efforts in issues related to communication and information at the United Nations and relevant international organizations and agencies including UNESCO. They welcomed the reactivation of NAM at UNESCO and concurred on the need to establish and/or further strengthen the mechanisms for the coordination of positions at other UNESCO instances, in particular the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC).

21. The Ministers reiterated their support to the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as adopted at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, in particular its provisions relative to development. They also stressed the importance of effective participation of an equitable and effective representation of developing countries in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society, including the Internet Governance Forum and Increased Cooperation. The Ministers further underlined the provisions related to the creation and consolidation of an enabling environment in which sustainable, pluralistic and professional media and infrastructure could flourish in developing countries.

22. The Ministers expressed concern that developing countries are still impoverished, not only materially and economically, but in terms of equitable endowments and opportunities in the field of global information and communication.

23. The Ministers agreed to reduce dependence on information from industrialized nations on Member Countries by initiating and supporting co-operative activities that will augment the new order, through fresh and dynamic approaches to programming, content and networking in the media systems of Member Countries and other developing countries.

24. The Ministers noted the effects of an inequitable global economic system which severely impede the ability of Member Countries to realize their optimum potentials for economic growth and development. They noted the adverse implications of the economic constraint in seeking to evolve more effective strategies for developing efficient and independent information networks that will facilitate the preservation and promotion of national interests.

25. The Ministers declared that the imbalances and inequalities found in global trade and the debt burden still constitute monumental hindrances to genuine social, economic and political progress in developing nations of the world. Accordingly, together with reaffirming their own commitment towards achieving economic and social progress, they called for urgent and sustained international action to create the necessary conditions for each nation to realize their own potential and ensure genuine global peaceful co-existence.

26. The Ministers called for increased investments in human capital and material resources in the area of information and communication and noted that some Member Countries are moving in that direction.

27. The Ministers insisted on the need for training in ICTs in order to have the professionals who can improve the level and quality of these sectors and facilitate the dissemination of information and communications to counter the ever-increasing problems of a globalized world. They underscored the importance of effective measures to stem the exodus of these professionals, and the brain drain by industrialized powers, which have harmful effects on the strategies to develop and improve human resources in developing countries.

28. The Ministers proposed that training programmes be organized, both at institutions of higher learning and by professional journalism institutes, to upgrade the skills of journalists in the coverage of issues of common interest, as well as issues of specific interest to NAM member countries and promoting their tourist destinations.

29. The Ministers also urged these institutions of higher learning and professional journalism institutes, to realize the importance of their contribution towards development and to continue to upgrade the skills of media practitioners so that their reports contribute to the development of their countries.

30. The Ministers stressed the need that information and communications strategies be deeply rooted in historical and cultural processes and made an urgent appeal to the media in developed countries so that their opinions, models and perspectives respect those from the developing countries thus ensuring the continuation of the dialogue among civilizations.

31. In this regard, they welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations efforts to address the challenge of improving cross-cultural and interreligious understanding and devising concrete tools to respond to emerging crises, such as a Rapid Response Media Mechanism to provide a platform for voices that can help reduce tensions.

32. They expressed concern about the orchestrated smear campaigns which developing countries have suffered from biased and distorted Western media reports, the Ministers re-emphasized the need for sustained efforts by the mechanisms charged with the dissemination of news and information among and about Member Countries to counter this threat. In this regard, they expressed deep concern at the growing campaigns aimed at the defamation of religions.

33. The Ministers recognized the role played by the Broadcasting Organization of the Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC), as a first attempt to disseminate information over the radio and television among NAM members and to the world, and stressed on the need to improve its functioning.

34. The Ministers also recognized and expressed their appreciation to Malaysia for launching and supporting the NAM News Network (NNN), since its inception in 2003 and agreed that NNN continues with its present infrastructure and headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

35. The Ministers opposed the use of the media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries which are aimed at destabilizing their Governments. They called for an immediate cessation of the radio electronic aggression against NAM member countries as it is an action contrary to the principles of international law. They reaffirmed that the radio electronic frequencies spectrum must be secured in favour of public interest and in accordance with the principle of legality. The Ministers expressed their support in particular to the decision of the latest International Conference on Radio Communications of the International Telecommunications Union on this subject.

36. The Ministers expressed their full support to the Radio Rules (RR) of the International Telecommunications Union on this subject, recalling that these RR are an international treaty, aimed to harmonize the pacific use of radio electric spectrum among countries.

37. In order to serve as means to promote peace and understanding among countries, the Ministers encouraged media to respect the existing codes of conduct and professional ethics.

38. The Ministers agreed that the NAM should promote professional standards and codes of ethics for the media in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law.

39. The Ministers expressed their determination to promote strategies of use and access of ICT addressed to children and teenagers, recognizing its benefits and advising that cybercrime threatens their rights, integrity and security, through pornography and sexual exploitation of this vulnerable segment of the population.

40. The Ministers reiterated their profound condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the position adopted by NAM in its 14th Summit, held in Havana; and appreciated the profound role of media in supporting the international efforts to combat terrorism. They regretted the continued tendency of some western media in stereotyping and profiling perpetrators of terrorist acts as Muslims.

41. The Ministers emphasized that self-reliance and commitment to South-South cooperation should be intensified to attain a higher level of activities in order to build and/or strengthen the existing capacities and infrastructure in the field of information and communications both at the national level and within the Non-Aligned Movement. To that end, they encouraged that NAM members render assistance and share expertise and experience among themselves.

42. For the effective promotion and implementation of cooperation among NAM countries in the fields of information and communications, the Ministers agreed on the adoption of the Isla Margarita Program of Action on the promotion of an objective voice of the South in the face of the current trends in the fields of information and communications.

43. Through the aforementioned Program of Action, the Ministers decided to follow up and improve the existing mechanisms in the framework of COMINAC.

Vote of thanks

44. The Ministers praised the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the excellent organization of this Conference and the warm hospitality accorded to them during their stay in the paradise-like Isla Margarita and they thanked them for that.

Isla Margarita (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
4 July 2008

ISLA MARGARITA PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE PROMOTION OF AN OBJECTIVE VOICE OF THE SOUTH IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT TRENDS IN THE FIELDS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

The Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries, gathered during the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VII) held in Isla Margarita (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), 2 to 4 July 2008;

Driven by the principles and challenges addressed in the Isla Margarita Declaration;

Agreed on the adoption of the following Program of Action:

On the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC)

1. Revitalize the functioning of BONAC, including its enlargement and serving as a NAM media network that acts as an instrument to enable the exchange of radio and TV programmes among NAM members.

2. Explore, to that end, the feasibility, including the identification of the necessary technical and financial resources, to establish the NAM Media Network through a virtual radio and TV functioning on servers located in each of the regions NAM countries are from and based on a programming policy that respects the principles and purposes of NAM, as well as existing provisions relative to Internet broadcasting.

3. Consider the South-South Information Gateway (SSIG) as a model for the exchange of radio and television programmes.

On the NAM News Network (NNN)

1. Decide that NNN should maintain a constant information flow towards the NAM Media Network.

2. Decide that NNN shall report to COMINAC VIII on its activities.

On the promotion of TELESUR

1. Use TELESUR as a means to promote an objective voice of our countries of the South through, inter alia, the following ideas and modalities:

(i) Providing an objective window into the way of life in NAM countries, through TELESUR programming;

(ii) Film and broadcast through TELESUR various programmes of series of reports on the origin and evolution of NAM, its founding fathers, its Summit Conferences and other milestones in the history of the Movement;

(iii) Establish a historic and cultural programme in each NAM country that shows the cultural diversity of NAM members. The contributions to these programs shall count on the support and cooperation of each of the countries object of these reports.

On other issues of interest for the NAM

1. Work closely with the international community to increase technology transfer, including ICTs, and to adopt policies and programs allowing developing countries to place technology at the service of development through, inter alia, technical cooperation, as well as building scientific and technical capacities to bridge the existing digital divide and development gap.

2. Enhance the existing multilateral mechanisms in assisting all countries, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructures and build ICT services that are viable and competitive at the national and international levels.

3. Support the Digital Solidarity Fund set up in Geneva as an innovative and voluntary financial mechanism, and explore other new voluntary sources for increasing contributions to this Fund.

4. Increase cooperation to promote a New World Information Order, by taking new initiatives with special emphasis on improving the contents of the programmes as well as the existing communication network systems of NAM members and those of other developing countries.

5. Undertake a reflection on norms and values for the emerging Information and Knowledge Society.

6. Invest in the training of human resources as well as in improving and upgrading of technologies in the area of information and communication, with a view to meet the challenges of a globalized world.

7. Utilize current mechanisms of disseminating information to help NAM countries create an enabling environment not only to retain but also attract talents and/or professionals in the field of information and communications.

8. Organize training programmes, both in higher education institutions and journalism schools, to develop appropriate tools for in-depth analysis and research on issues of common and specific interest to NAM countries.

9. Call for an immediate end to the misuse of media for inciting and launching concerted campaigns against NAM members, including, inter alia, the hostile use of radio and electronic transmissions, which is contrary to the principles of international law.

10. Continue to strengthen the coordination of NAM efforts related to information and communication within the United Nations, including UNESCO, and other relevant international organizations and agencies. In this context, the Ministers took note of the Message of the NAM Chapter in UNESCO to COMINAC-VII.
