STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER (PRESS)

AT THE

37th SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION

United Nations

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you Mr. Chairman on your election to the Chairmanship of this Committee and also to other elected members of the Bureau. We are confident that under your able leadership the Committee will work efficiently and smoothly. We also wish to thank the outgoing Chairperson and members of the Bureau for their significant contributions to the Committee’s work.

We congratulate Madam Cristina Gallach on her appointment as the Under-Secretary General for Communication and Public Information and appreciate presentation of a comprehensive report and updating us on the Department’s activities.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with appreciation the overall increase in the viewership and readership of DPI products on traditional and non-traditional media. We hope DPI will continue in its efforts to increase its media visibility. We also hope that DPI would continue to keep up with the fast developing social media networks and make the best use of new tools being made available.

We appreciate the efforts made by DPI in providing comprehensive information during the outbreak of Ebola virus last year. Pakistan also
appreciates DPI’s efforts in arranging coverage of events related to the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

We congratulate DPI on successful launch of new user-friendly UN website.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping is a flagship activity of the UN and is very challenging. Pakistan is one of the largest troop contributing country to the Peacekeeping Operations. We hope that the proposed documentary on peacekeeping operations will appropriately highlight the challenges faced by the peacekeepers and their success stories. We would appreciate more details on this project. Our delegation continues to underscore the importance of close cooperation between the DPI and other Departments in particular the DPKO and Department of Field Support.

The UN Information Centers around the world are doing an important work in disseminating information about the UN. We strongly urge that all possible measures should be taken to strengthen these Centers and to work more proactively in projecting the activities of UN.

We have noted with satisfaction the signing of memorandum of understanding between UNIC, Islamabad with PTV World. This would go a long way in spreading UN massages to the public. We appreciate the various activities undertaken by DPI in Pakistan, including a photo exhibition in Lahore. In our view it would contribute to even greater success if member states are involved in these activities.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting at a time when several conflicts that have religious ingredients are creating discord and tensions around the world. There have been incidents of deaths and destruction.

In this connection, our Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his address to the General Assembly last year had said, “It is important to counter the narrative of extremists. Inter-racial tensions and defamation of religions provide fertile ground for conflict. Constructive and serious
dialogue among religions is essential to promote understanding, tolerance and harmony”.

We believe that the Department of Public Information should step up its efforts through the media to defuse these tensions and promote interfaith harmony.

We urge DPI to encourage discussions at regional and international levels, involving journalists, for fostering interfaith harmony with the objective of promoting peace and stability around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

We have noted DPI’s initiative of a trust fund, UN Development Business for empowerment of women-led businesses and would appreciate provision of more information in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan reiterates its support to the Department of Public Information and reassure you of our fullest cooperation in accomplishment of the Committee’s work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.