

**Statement by Ambassador Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Charge d' Affaires,
Pakistan Mission to the UN, in the General Debate of 32nd Session of
the UN Committee on Information
27 April 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to convey its appreciation to you and other members of the Bureau for their significant contribution to the efficient and smooth functioning of the Committee's work.

2. We congratulate the distinguished representative of Georgia on his election as a Vice Chair of the Committee.

3. We would like to commend the valuable work done by the Department of Public Information (DPI), which has worked strenuously to carry out its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

5. The Pakistan delegation welcomes the comprehensive report presented by the distinguished Under-Secretary-General for Information, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, which highlights past activities and future challenges. The interactive session was equally useful for the Member States to comprehend the direction and dimension of the Department. We thank Mr. Akasaka and his team for their frank exchange of views on the activities of the Department and their future plans.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The most important task of the DPI, is to reach out to the widest possible audience, to project UN ideals and accomplishments; maintain strategic coherence in the overall message and facilitate system-wide coordination.

7. We commend the DPI's efficient coverage of issues of international importance like UN reform, Climate Change, Human Rights, Development of Africa, Preventing Genocide, Alliance of Civilizations, Millennium Development Goals, Peacekeeping Operations, Peace and Security and Counter Terrorism. This has raised the profile of the UN as more and more people across the globe have started knowing about its endeavours on a broad range of issues. My delegation is confident that the DPI will continue on this path and use all available tools to maximize the impact of its outreach activities.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Pakistan has been engaged constructively with the UN reform process including System-wide Coherence, Revitalization of the General Assembly and Security Council reform. The complexity of these issues requires extensive consultations among Member States for achieving consensus. The DPI should continue to disseminate widely views of the Member States on such important issues.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Pakistan is the largest Troop Contributing Country to the flagship UN activity of Peacekeeping Operations. 113 Pakistani peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives in the service of the UN. The work of the UN peacekeepers is very challenging but has several success stories. This should also be shared with all citizens of the world through the DPI.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The work of the UN Information Centers around the world in disseminating information, in particular about the UN system, is of paramount importance. These Centers are mini-United Nations in their respective host countries. We strongly urge that all possible measures should be taken to strengthen these Centers, particularly in the developing countries. The UN Centers are vital source for the flow of information and help in bridging the gap in terms of access to information and communication technologies. We underscore the need for allocation of adequate resources to ensure effective functioning and strengthening of the UN Information Centers in developing countries.

11. We are cognizant of the enormity of the task for achieving parity among official languages in the UN publications and appreciate the efforts being made by the DPI in this regard.

12. Pakistan delegation welcomes the initiative by the UN Information Centers for publication of information material and translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the UN, as well as developing websites in local languages. We are confident that the DPI will continue its support to this important endeavour.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Freedom of expression is a universal right which needs to be promoted and protected. This should, however, not be misused or abused to create misunderstanding among various cultures, civilizations and religions. The Committee has a central role in ensuring that the UN Public Information policies are formulated for forging greater harmony and respect among peoples belonging to various societies, cultures and religions. The DPI should encourage discussions at regional and international levels, involving journalists, for fostering harmony among peoples of the world with the objective of promoting global peace and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

14. Pakistan is among the countries where government policies have created an enabling environment for private media. As a result of these policies, there has been an unprecedented surge in the electronic media. The vibrant media in Pakistan promotes people's rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Chairman,

15. In conclusion, we reiterate our support to the Department of Public Information and its endeavours to effectively carry out its mandate and reassure you of our utmost cooperation in accomplishment of the Committee's work.

Thank you.