

Press Release

Pakistan calls for enhanced information integrity on digital platforms

<u>New York - April 15, 2024</u>



Ambassador Usman Jadoon, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, today delivered a statement at the final Interactive Dialogue on the Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms arranged by the Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations.

In his statement, he emphasized the critical importance of combating disinformation and fake news in order to safeguard human rights, and promote equitable access to digital resources.

Ambassador Jadoon underscored the recent instance of disinformation employed by the Israeli apartheid regime, emphasizing the necessity of ensuring information integrity, particularly in digital spaces. He stressed the imperative of protecting the rights of people under foreign occupation, condemning censorship, internet blackouts, and the spread of fake news by occupation forces as attempts to discredit legitimate freedom movements. He also raised concerns about the marginalization of minority communities through the weaponization of digital media platforms, emphasizing the violation of human rights conventions.

Ambassador Usman Jadoon identified key challenges in regulating online content, including the decentralized nature of the internet, commercialization of online platforms prioritizing profit over accuracy, and the increasing use of AI tools for spreading false information. He called for the global principles that denounce digital imperialism and upholds core principles such as human rights, dignity, and equality.

Furthermore, Ambassador Jadoon highlighted the digital divide in developing countries like Pakistan, stressing the need for investment in infrastructure and capacity-building programs to enhance digital literacy and access.

He expressed Pakistan's sincere appreciation to Under-Secretary General Melissa Fleming and the Committee on Information Secretariat for their dedication to advancing the conversation on information integrity.