



**Press Release**

***Pakistan Advocates for Comprehensive International Cyber Security Framework***

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In a significant debate on addressing the evolving threats in cyberspace, Pakistan has underscored the necessity of a legally binding international instrument tailored to the unique attributes of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The country called for this regulatory framework to be negotiated within the United Nations, ensuring equal participation from all states.

During the UN Security Council High-Level Open Debate on “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace,” Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, highlighted that several countries, including Pakistan, have been victims of sustained disinformation campaigns.

Ambassador Akram referred to the 2019 and 2020 reports by EU DisinfoLab, which exposed anti-Pakistan propaganda, disinformation activities, and cyber warfare against Pakistan.

“The 2019 report provided proof of 15 years of massive disinformation operations against Pakistan, involving more than 10 so-called NGOs fraudulently accredited to the UN Human Rights Council, over 750 fake media outlets, and 550 fake websites, even resurrecting dead people,” he stated.

The Pakistan UN envoy emphasized that this systematic, state-led campaign aimed to malign Pakistan by misusing the UN and European institutions. He stressed that the EU DisinfoLab’s exposé on disinformation campaigns requires global attention.

Ambassador Akram highlighted the UN General Assembly resolution sponsored by Pakistan, titled “Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.” He stated that this resolution affirms the responsibility of states to counter disinformation that undermines peace and cooperation among nations.

Recognizing the insufficiency of merely asserting the applicability of international law to cyberspace, Ambassador Akram argued that the legally binding framework is essential to address the unique challenges posed by ICTs and should align with the principles of the UN Charter such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of force, and non-interference, etc.

He acknowledged the contributions of ICT technologies to socio-economic development while recognizing the expansion of conflict domains to include cyber warfare and cyber-attacks by state and non-state actors. He stressed the urgent need to address malicious cyber activities such as ransom-ware and the theft of sensitive information.

Ambassador Akram advocated for confidence-building measures (CBMs), including the voluntary exchange of information and best practices to enhance transparency and predictability in cyberspace. He lauded the recent inauguration of the Global Points of Contact Directory for ICT Security as an important step toward promoting trust and cooperation among states.

“With a population of over 240 million people, and a flourishing digital landscape, Pakistan attaches immense importance to leveraging digital technologies for socio-economic development and more effective and efficient governance and public service delivery,” he maintained.

Ambassador Akram called for bridging the digital divide through capacity building and enhanced international cooperation to enable a global transition to modern, efficient national economies in an increasingly digital world.

He reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to fostering a stable and secure cyberspace through a comprehensive and inclusive international framework that addresses the interests and concerns of all states.