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**STATEMENT BY MIAN JAHANGIR IQBAL MINISTER (PRESS) AT THE 35th SESSION
OF COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (COI)
APRIL 22, 2013**

Madam Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating the new chairperson of the Committee on Information (COI), Ambassador Lyutha al-Mughairy of Oman, and four new Bureau members on the assumption of their offices. Having served the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) with distinction, Madam al-Mughairy, the chairmanship of this Committee's 35th session is your crowning glory. We are more than confident that under your able guidance, the Committee will achieve optimum results. We assure you of our complete cooperation and support.

2. We also commend the valuable job done by the Information (DPI), which has worked vigorously to carry out its mandated task.

3. We also commend the valuable job done by the Government of Fiji on behalf of the Government of the Cook Islands.

of the UN will not reach the world's poorest populations, particularly in developing countries. The new media, on the other hand provides a dynamic asset both in terms of improving the networking capacity of the Organization and of providing timely information to a varied array of actors.

Madam Chairperson,

8. Since Pakistan attaches high importance to UN Peacekeeping missions, we urge the DPI to continue lending its support to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support for raising awareness of the new ground realities, its successes and challenges of peacekeeping operations.

Madam Chairperson,

9. The importance of the work of United Nations Information Centers (UNICs) around the world cannot be over-emphasized -- You know better, Madam Chairperson, you have the first hand knowledge of these UN outposts having served as the chief of UNICs. As a vital source of information, these 63 centers greatly help to bridge the gap between the developed and developing countries in terms of access to information and communication technologies. We, therefore, urge the DPI to allocate adequate resources for UNICs to ensure their effective functioning, particularly in the developing countries. To secure rent-free premises for UNICs from host countries, it is important that the economic conditions of those countries should also be taken into considerations while ensuring full allocation of financial support for the centers. Pakistan welcomes the appointment of new Director for UNIC Islamabad but at the same time also urge DPI to restore full services for its center in Islamabad.

10. We welcome DPI's efforts to make available U.N. publications and translated information material in local languages, including Urdu, for the benefit of the people of Pakistan.