Thank you USG Fleming for the timely briefing. I greatly appreciate your efforts to brief us on DGC’s global communication strategy in the midst of fighting a life-threatening pandemic we are also confronted with what DG Tedros has now famously called an “infodemic”.

Fake news, competing narratives or deepfakes are being disseminated across multiple platforms by anonymous bots. Information warfare in itself isn’t new, the pervasiveness of technology within the core fabric of our society means that misinformation and disinformation can reach more people and have a much higher impact.

These campaigns, whoever is waging them, erode trust and pose very real threats to society. Sometimes, they’re simply designed to create an atmosphere of confusion and instability where people distrust everything and everyone. The need for accurate, impartial and timely information has never been greater before.

It is heartening to see DGC ensuring business continuity and supporting the larger UN system to position the UN as the most authoritative and authentic source on scientific knowledge, best practices and vital statistics on COVID-19. The initiative of the two tick marks in the yellow circle is a source of comfort and assurance. I commend you and your team for such tireless efforts during these challenging times.

The new plan envisages transformation of the public from being mere consumers of news & information to responsible individuals, wanting to contribute to the shared global challenges. India welcomes the action-oriented approach, which attempts to give a human face to the otherwise sundry-statistics.

Technology has enabled DGC to have a direct conversation with vast majority of the public at a minimal cost. The 2020 strategy wants to make this an emotive conversation. There is no better way to have an emotive conversation than speak the native tongue of the people.

The people of this planet dream, read, hear, watch and gossip in languages beyond the six official UN languages. While the DGC has been doing a commendable job, we would request that the ongoing global outreach efforts in languages other than official languages need to be strengthened.
Finally, I assure you India’s support and constructive engagement with you and the DGC team for implementation of the global communication strategy 2020.

Thank you.