Press Release

PLAN TO GRAPPLE HUMAN EXPRESSION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIIA
ITU's Centre of Governance & Policy Talk on "Social Media and Pakistan's War on Terror"

Lahore, August 23, 2017

"Pakistan has been unable to grapple with the massive space of human expression and there is an immediate need to devise a clear plan to improve the situation". This was stated by Dr Kiran Hassan from Institute of Common Wealth Studies, University of London during a talk on "Social Media and Pakistan's War on Terror" at Information Technology University (ITU)'s Centre of Governance and Policy here today.

Starting with statistics, Dr Hassan disclosed that over 70% of Pakistanis have access to mobile phones while the penetration of social media networks like Facebook and twitter has surpassed 25%. In Pakistan social media has become an important element of our society alongside print and broadcast media. "Pakistan has a high social media penetration and so it is important to assess its impact," Dr Hassan noted.

Referring to General (R) Raheel Sharif's statement that social media has become a platform for militancy in Pakistan, to underscore its recognition as playing a role in the War against Terror in Pakistan, he said that we needed to know how the government was dealing with the issue, especially after the controversial Cyber Crimes Act and primarily focusing on banning "immoral" websites rather than militant sites." He also shared figures of banned organisations having their online presence without any control.