**Statement**

**by the Working Group on Armenian IGF**

**at the Seventh Annual IGF Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum 2012**

"**Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development**"

The Working Group on Armenian IGF was willing and ready to take active part in the Seventh Annual IGF Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum convened in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 6 to 9, 2012. It was also looking forward to make its valuable contribution to the Internet Governance process, especially, taking into consideration the vitality and actuality of the Forum's subject matter. However, the recent developments in Azerbaijan made our physical presence at the Forum dangerous and, therefore, impossible.

The extradition by Hungary to Azerbaijan and the unprecedented pardon by Azerbaijan's President Aliyev of the notorious Ramil Safarov who axe-murdered in cold blood in February of 2004 in Budapest, Hungary, the sleeping Armenian military officer Gurgen Margaryan, as well as the subsequent cynical glorification and honoring of the brutal killer in Azerbaijan, combined with the increasing anti-Armenian racist propaganda on the highest level, inflicted considerable damage to the weak contacts existing between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the framework of the international organizations and fora. With outright contempt and neglect, Azerbaijan continues to turn blind eye and deaf ear to the unanimous and unequivocal condemnation voiced by many countries, international and European organizations over this gross violation of the principles and norms of the international law and human morality[[1]](#footnote-1).

Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development – these are not just words. On November 6, 2012, the Armenian side was harshly rejected the simple opportunity of remote participation in the IGF work: neither web broadcasting nor transcripts of the sessions and workshops have been available to Armenian citizens, let alone the unwillingness of some moderators to answer our questions or voice our rightful concerns or complaints.

We therefore strongly insist on ensuring of our full-fledged participation in the IGF activities at all levels in order to guarantee the inclusiveness and transparency of the entire IGF process.

***Yerevan, November 7, 2012***

1. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR55/015/2012/en/8e84f955-9f8f-488c-ad34-c68a744b6878/eur550152012en.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)