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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF SWEDEN, TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES, delivered at the 920th Meeting of the Permanent Council

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement also on behalf of the delegations of Turkey and the United States of America.

On 5 July 2012, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) by consensus adopted a landmark resolution in which it affirmed that the same rights that people enjoy offline must also be protected online. The resolution highlighted in particular freedom of expression, which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice, in accordance with articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The UNHRC resolution recognizes the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force for development. It also calls on all states to promote and facilitate Internet access.

Our countries, together with Brazil, Nigeria and Tunisia (the latter being an OSCE Partner for Cooperation), formed a coalition which presented the resolution to the Human Rights Council for its 20th session. The resolution later gained the support of more than 80 co-sponsors from all over the world, including 44 OSCE participating States and 6 of its partners for cooperation.

We further recall that, during the OSCE Permanent Council meeting of June 14, 2012, 44 participating States made, or aligned themselves with, statements supporting the principle that OSCE commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms also apply to their exercise in the digital world.

We hope that freedom of the media and freedom on the Internet will be among the concrete deliverables to be achieved at the Ministerial Council in Dublin.

Finally, let us reiterate our strong appreciation for the assistance provided by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to us, the participating States, in ensuring freedom on the Internet. We call on all participating States to cooperate with her and her Office.

The UNHRC resolution will be circulated to all participating States.



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 June 2012

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Twentieth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Algeria*, Argentina*, Australia*, Austria, Azerbaijan*, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of)*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Brazil*, Bulgaria*, Canada*, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire*, Croatia*, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Estonia*, Finland*, France*, Georgia*, Germany*, Greece*, Guatemala, Honduras*, Hungary, Iceland*, India, Indonesia, Ireland*, Italy, Latvia*, Libya, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Maldives, Malta*, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco*, Montenegro*, Morocco*, Netherlands*, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine*, Peru, Poland, Portugal*, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea*, Romania, Serbia*, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Somalia*, Spain, Sweden*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Timor-Leste*, Tunisia*, Turkey*, Ukraine*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, United States of America, Uruguay: draft resolution

20/... The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in particular Council resolution 12/16 of 2 October 2009, and also recalling General Assembly resolution 66/184 of 22 December 2011,

Noting that the exercise of human rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression, on the Internet is an issue of increasing interest and importance as the rapid pace of technological development enables individuals all over the world to use new information and communications technologies,

* Non-Member State of the Human Rights Council.

Taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its seventeenth session,¹ and to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,² on freedom of expression on the Internet,

1. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression, which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice, in accordance with articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

3. *Calls upon* all States to promote and facilitate access to the Internet and international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries;

4. *Encourages* special procedures to take these issues into account within their existing mandates, as applicable;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, on the Internet and in other technologies, as well as of how the Internet can be an important tool for development and for exercising human rights, in accordance with its programme of work.

¹ A/HRC/17/27.

² A/66/290.