



Hügelgasse 2, A-1130 Vienna Tel: +43 (1) 403 13 22 Fax: +43 (1) 403 13 23 E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

**Statement at the Closing Plenary of the OSCE Conference “Internet 2013:
Shaping policies to advance media freedom”**

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The issues of the internet, social networks and media freedom, as well as the issue of rights and responsibilities in the framework of the freedom of expression and freedom of speech are the core highlights of this conference.

The sensitive moment in this regard is the thesis being pushed within the OSCE recently on the possibility of using social networks to influence internal political situation. It should be mentioned that there are different approaches within the OSCE to this particular issue and there are no relevant political commitments, which on the one hand would determine the level of commitments of this social networks users and on the other hand would give them certain rights. Though we would like to stress that OSCE participating States have concrete commitments of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states.

In this regard we consider that working sessions of this event as well as the composition of the panelists should reflect existing different approaches in the relevant sphere.

We suppose that involvement of the representatives of the state agencies dealing with unjustified attempts to use the social networks to destabilize the situation and to breach public order, could give a chance for those representatives to tell the member states and the participants of this conference about the difficulties they are facing while addressing attempts to hold unauthorized rallies and demonstrations. One of the important moments which should not be left unnoticed is the consequences of unauthorized demonstrations. It would be appropriate to take into account the damages to the state and private property caused by the unauthorized rallies and demonstrations, as well as to reveal the external powers interested in such attempts to destabilize public order. In this context it worth mentioning that International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as OSCE document Copenhagen 1990 and other relevant international human rights treaties clearly indicates the possibility of restriction to

the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in conformity with the law and which is necessary in the interest of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Having said that we would like to reiterate the importance of the comprehensive approach to the issue of the rights and commitments of all participants of this process: users of the social networks initiating the public disorder, participants of such unauthorized demonstrations and also state agencies responsible for addressing violations of the right to public and private property.

We encourage organizers of the Conference and the OSCE Chairmanship to take note of these remarks in the context of the current and future discussion on this topic.