**Responses of the Republic of Armenia to the Questionnaire regarding the implementation of the HRC resolution 38/11 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests**

1. *Laws, policies and programs that have been developed to address the impact of new technologies, including information and communications technology, on human rights in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests.*

New information and communication technologies in Armenia give people an opportunity to exercise their rights freely.

In 2003, the Law on “Freedom of Information” of the Republic of Armenia was adopted, which ensures the exercise of the constitutional right of access to information. In 2009, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia, the concept of information security in the Republic of Armenia was adopted, which regulates human rights in the context of free access to information.

In 2011, the Law on “Freedom of Assemblies” of the Republic of Armenia was adopted, which regulates the exercise of human rights during peaceful protests. According to the Part 2 of the Article 32 of the Law on “Freedom of Assemblies” of the Republic of Armenia in case of peaceful assemblies the police shall be obliged to ensure the presence of its representative at the assembly and support the rally.

In order to organize police activities in accordance with the Law on “Freedom of Assemblies” “Guidelines for the activities of officers of the police units involved in public order management and for the use of physical force, special means and firearms by these officers during mass disorders” have been developed to ensure the exercise of the constitutional right to freedom of assembly.

On February 2, 2018 the Law of the Republic of Armenia on amending the Article 22 of the “Law on Police” was adopted, according to which, while preventing or detecting crimes, while maintaining public order (including traffic safety), police may use immovable video recordings or photographic techniques in public places. When technical means are used to exercise control in public places, a warning is published. The warning is made by placing signs in visible areas of surveillance and posting technically controlled street addresses or descriptions of controlled areas on the official police website.

Immovable technical means of video shooting or photographing in public places shall be installed upon the decision of the head of the relevant regional police body or the chief of the traffic police in agreement with the head of the relevant community, taking into account the number of crimes and violations of public order in the respective area and their public nature,.

Immovable technical means of video shooting or photographing in privately owned public places and the owner's technical means shall be installed and provided to the police with the consent of the owner in accordance with a contract concluded with the latter.

When preventing or detecting crimes, ensuring public order, police officers may use movable video recording or photographic technical means within a time limit set for the exercise of these police powers.

The video recorder or photographic technique should be attached to the uniform of a police officer or be in the hands of a police officer or in a police service vehicle.  Police officers should wear video recording and photographing techniques in a visible manner, except for cases when operative investagive measures are carried out. The police officer is obliged to warn verbally about non-secret surveillance by means of video recording or photographing.

1. *Effective uses of such technologies as enablers of the exercise of human rights in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests (e.g. how new technologies have facilitated the organization of assemblies, including peaceful protests).*

Free Internet, freedom of social networks, internet access throughout the Republic of Armenia promote human rights. It enables to be informed in real time. And in the context of that access and freedom, people can freely exercise their rights.

During April-May of 2018, the people of Armenia have exercised their direct right to power through peaceful, nonviolent, Velvet revolution through the series of peaceful protests. During the revolution period, social networks and media played a major role in ensuring transparency and accountability of the revolutionary forces which essentially contributed to the strengthening of democracy in Armenia and exercising the right of people to access to information and freedom of expression. During these events, the organizers of the rallies widely used social media to mobilize people discontented with the situation in the country, coordinate and organize actions in a self-managed manner. The peaceful assemblies were organized with the use of social media and were widely disseminated among public.

1. *The human rights challenges posed by interferences with the availability and use of such technologies in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests (e.g. through networks disruptions, blocking of internet services or restrictions on secure and confidential communications).*

There is no a practice ofnetwork disruptions, blocking of internet services or restrictions on secure and confidential communications in the Republic of Armenia.

1. *The human rights challenges posed by the use of new technologies, including information and communications technology, in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests (e.g. the use of surveillance and monitoring tools by the authorities, including biometrics-based recognition technology to identify protestors).*

The use of surveillance and monitoring tools by the authorities, including biometrics-based recognition technology to identify protestors is not practiced in the Republic of Armenia.

Video recording, video shooting and photography are performed only through official (non-personal) technical means. In case of detection or fixation of a violation by technical means, the police officer has no right to stop or interrupt the video recording or video shooting.

Videos or photos can be used to investigate crimes or violations of public order, to investigate complaints about police officers' actions, to advocate for the rights and legitimate interests of individuals, to publicize the presence or absence of a disciplinary violation or the characteristics of a disciplinary offense attributable to him or her after the completion of an official investigation towards a police officer on cases that received public attention without a publication or little publication of identifiable data of other persons.

Use of videos or photos for other purposes (including publishing) is prohibited.

1. *The impact on human rights of the use of new less-lethal weapons and ammunition technology in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests.*

The use of new less-lethal weapons and ammunition technology have positive impact on the human rights, which also encourages more people to participate in rallies, as the use of deadly ammunition limits the participation of people in the rallies.

The police officers involved in ensuring public order and public safety during the rally wear a casual outfit without firearms. Only special reserve forces are equipped with firearms and special supplies.