

**Yerevan Declaration of Joint Action**  
**adopted at the Fourth Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide on**  
**Prevention of Genocide in the Era of New Technologies**  
**13 December, 2022**

**On behalf of the** 4<sup>th</sup> Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide, held on 12-13 December 2022, in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia,

**Guided by** the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly, on 9 December 1948, **and reaffirming its significance** as an effective international instrument for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide;

**Underlining** the unique mandate of the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide as an early warning mechanism to the UN system on genocide prevention;

**Recognizing** the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the special role played by the United Nations system, regional and sub-regional organizations in the promotion and preservation of peace;

**Welcoming** the initiative to convene the Human Rights Council intersessional meeting to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which will discuss the role of social media platforms and their instrumentalization and provide a space for a thorough examination of the issue and for a dialogue with various stakeholders;

**Recognizing** the role and contribution of civil society, academia and the education sector, formal and non-formal in prevention efforts, in particular, in strengthening the efficiency of early warning mechanisms, promoting accountability and the right to truth, as well as preserving historic memory and combating genocide distortion, denial and hate speech, including online.

**Expressing deep concern** of the ongoing crisis as it relates to the decline of multilateralism, as well as international and regional security, which ultimately contributes to the risk increase of genocide recurrence;

**Recognizing** that most atrocity crimes, including genocide may occur during both armed conflicts and peaceful situations;

**Stressing** that early warning must be systematically linked to decision-making about early action;

**Recognizing** the potential of new technologies in contributing significantly to the prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes;

**Acknowledging** the importance of digital tools and Artificial Intelligence as an early warning and effective monitoring mechanism to prevent and stop violence and prevent genocide;

**Alarmed** by the security risks that the innovative and emerging technologies can pose in preparation and perpetration of genocide and other atrocity crimes, including by facilitating spread of hate speech and extremist narratives and ideologies;

**Expressing deep concern** about the disturbing occurrences and dissemination of online hate including malicious communications (sending letters, emails and messages that cause distress and anxiety), cyberbullying, cyberstalking through content (text, image, video, audio), incitement to commit violence, scenes of violence, inhuman and degrading treatment against national, ethnic, religious or racial groups;

**Strongly condemning** the use of hate speech, attacking or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, including on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, or any other identity factor;

**Deeply concerned** at the spread of disinformation and misinformation, particularly on social media platforms, as new tools of propaganda, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead and spread racism, intolerance, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to violate and abuse human rights and dehumanize groups on the basis of identity;

**Reaffirming** the imperative of ensuring a safe digital space for all where human rights are respected without discrimination;

**Highlighting** the urgency of equipping citizens worldwide, including youth and marginalized groups, with media and information literacy and digital citizenship competencies, to enable them to navigate the evolving information landscape, and to promote freedom of expression and access to information as a public good;

**Encouraging** the tech companies and social media platforms to enhance efforts in the context of content moderation of hate speech in line with freedom of opinion and expression;

**Emphasizing** that the reliable digital evidence can contribute to ensure accountability and effective remedy for genocide and other atrocity crimes;

**Underlining** the importance to properly assess the risk of the use of advanced military technologies, including drones, and cyber strikes in order to prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes;

**Highlighting** that States should be held accountable for the use of armed drones in accordance with international human rights law;

**Acknowledging** the positive role that new technologies play in protecting and preserving cultural and religious heritage;

**Expressing strong concern** towards the unlawful destruction, looting and appropriation of cultural property and holy sites, the deliberate attacks of religious and ethnic groups, as well as attempts to deny historical roots and cultural diversity, in particular, in the context of armed conflict and terrorist attacks;

**Urging** governments to adopt social media regulations to effectively address and counter hate speech in line with international human rights law, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

**Welcoming** the establishment of the United Nations Secretary General's Office of the Envoy on Technology and calling for the Special Envoy and the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide to develop concrete actions to reduce the risks posed by new technologies, including in the context of atrocity crimes;

**Further commit** to prevent genocides and other atrocity crimes and their recurrence by effectively addressing new and emerging threats to global peace and security, including those related to new technologies;

**Reaffirm**, based on the concept and deliberations of this Forum, our joint commitment to build more resilient and inclusive societies, where new technologies are used to advance peace and security, human rights and sustainable development, and contribute to prevent atrocity crimes.