**Human Rights Council resolution 38/11 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests**

* **Contribution by ROMANIA to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on new technologies, including information and communications technology, and their impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests**

Keeping in mind developments in the field of communication and information technology, the impact of new technologies in promoting and protecting human rights in the field of protests and peaceful gatherings is major. In this context, social media networks, means of public communication (such as the written press, TV, webcams positioned in public places of interest, etc.) or other means of communication and information spreading represent effective tools. These can be used to disseminate information on the hour, the place and the estimated number of participants in declared public gatherings or spontaneous protests.

In order to ensure the necessary conditions for the good management of public gatherings and to prevent events from having an impact on public order or the safety of participants to gatherings, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania primarily uses the means of dialogue. This is done by contacting the organizers of public gatherings or the participants to these gatherings, either via direct contact or by using new forms of communication technology, with the purpose of discussing the practicalities of organizing gatherings and protests safely. These include but are not limited to: following the *procedural steps* to declaring public gatherings, in accordance with the appropriate legal framework, limiting access to persons who are guilty of committing antisocial acts, requesting aid for any problem that arises as a result of the protest and respecting the agreed-upon hours and locations of the gatherings.

At the level of law enforcement, it is our wish that all police officers be outfitted with *bodycam* type equipment. These are extremely useful, as they ensure transparency during both peaceful engagement with citizens and the enforcement of law.

This measure will engender correct conduct on both sides in the law enforcement – citizen relationship.

In order to assume ground command of the law enforcement layout put in place on the occasion of large scale manifestations (public gatherings, peaceful protests, cultural or sport activities, etc.), the General Directorate of Bucharest Police has configured a mobile command center using its own IT&C equipment (a truck equipped with the IT&C equipment used on a daily basis by police). In the case of any protest, IT&C technology will be used in a suitable manner, and not as a tool to breach fundamental rights and liberties through censorship, surveillance, interception, pursuit and localization of people and information.

Institutions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania concerned with this issue use new media methods of communication, both before and during the course of assemblies, in order to send preventive and informative messages to participants, informing them of their rights and obligations. These methods of communication are also employed for requesting the participants to the protests to respect the rights of those who choose not to participate in the gathering, but nevertheless live, work or commute in the area in which the protest is taking place.