

**INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM****Closing Remarks By**

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Colleagues and friends,

It is a my great pleasure to deliver the closing remarks of Ms. Haiyan Qian, Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, UNDESA. I quote:

I would like to begin by extending our deepest appreciation, on behalf of Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, Minister Prof. Dr. Ali Mammad Abbasov and his excellent team, and the people of Azerbaijan for hosting this outstanding Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Your warm hospitality and extensive financial, administrative and logistical support have made this Forum yet another triumphant IGF meeting.

During this seventh meeting of the IGF, more than 1618 participants from over 100 countries convened here in Baku. There are 429 government representatives, 161 representatives from the technical and academia community, 268 representatives from the private sector, 541 from the civil society, 96 representatives from international organisations, and 123 other representatives including the media. Indeed, IGF has reached yet another milestone with these impressive figures.

I am particularly pleased to report that we have unprecedented high level dialogue at this IGF, including participation of over 30 ministers and ministerial level officials from 19 countries, including 11 ministerial level officials from the host government Azerbaijan.

Throughout this week, we continue to explore key thematic areas of Internet governance, including access and diversity, management of critical Internet resources, Internet governance for development, issues around security, openness and privacy, and other emerging issues.

As this is my fifth time participating at the IGF in-person, I am fully aware that it is not only during these annual gatherings that the IGF process is put in motion, but also throughout the year at regional and national IGFs, MAG meetings, open consultation sessions and a multitude of other related activities.

For instance, among many other great initiatives, I am impressed by the recent First Annual Arab IGF that was held in Kuwait, from 9 to 11 October 2012, convened by the Arab IGF Secretariat which was represented by the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA) of Egypt, and held under the joint umbrella of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States (LAS). Another great initiative was the IGF pre-event on “Enhanced Cooperation in Internet governance: From Deadlock to Dialogue”, which was organised by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Internet Society (ISOC) and International Chamber of Commerce and its Business Action to Support the Information Society initiative (ICC-BASIS) with the support of the governments of Brazil, Egypt, and Kenya. Such forward-looking innovative initiatives manifest the uniqueness of the IGF.

Every day, we have more and more people connecting through the Internet. This makes our work at the IGF much more significant and prominent. We need to take on the responsibility to continue our best efforts in bridging the digital divide and providing all with the equal opportunities brought about by the Internet.

The IGF’s inclusive, participatory and transparent governance process plays a critical role in driving the growth of the Internet, which is clearly bringing new social and economic opportunities to so many people in the developing world.

As the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu, has pointed out, “Every day we see the benefits that technology brings to our collective human, economic and social development efforts. Of course, this same technology brings many challenges as well. These challenges must be addressed together by all stakeholders in an inclusive and participatory manner.” This session of IGF has again provided the valued platform for continuous consensus building and learning opportunities for all. I am sure each one of us will bring back to our respective countries and organizations new ideas and approaches on how we can best deal with these crucial issues.

We need to build capacities to address challenges and implement strategies, not only in our own countries and organizations but also to assist others, especially those in developing and the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition. The Internet offers a lot of potential and opportunities for sustainable development.

Moving forward UNDESA will continue to ensure increased support to the participation at the IGF and MAG meetings, particularly those from the developing countries, and that capacity building, knowledge sharing and outreach efforts will be strengthened to raise awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The discourse and exchange of ideas that have taken place over the past week would not have been possible without the support of the international donor community, including the financial

support provided to the IGF trust fund. Allow me to particularly thank those who had supported in the past and/or are supporting the IGF. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to support the IGF and we will have new donors joining the IGF community in the near future.

Finally I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who have in one way or another contributed to the success of this 7<sup>th</sup> IGF, including the UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Antonius Broek and his team for their superb support, the UN Nations Department of Public Information for their excellent coverage and communication outreach, our dear colleagues from the UN Office at Geneva for providing excellent conference services, security, interpretation, the IGF Secretariat led UNDESA staff, whose tireless work over the past year has made this session all possible. Great appreciation also goes to the group of 27 remote participation facilitators and all live transcripts experts for their outstanding work, which allows effective communication for all participants including those at remote locations and those who are physically challenged.

This forum would not have been possible without over 200 committed staff members of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies, under the excellent leadership of H.E. Minister Prof. Dr. Abbasov, as well as the great spirit and assistance of over 250 local volunteers.

Last but not least, I would like to extend special and sincere thanks to all of you as an integral part of the IGF community, for your active and in-depth participation throughout the past week. Special thanks to all MAG Members for their invaluable contributions to the preparation and organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> IGF. We must also not forget all our workshop organizers, who voluntarily organized over 100 sessions that contribute to the overall success of the IGF.

At this closure, our work begins with the next IGF cycle. Let us work together to ensure that the IGF continues to grow and prosper. Let us strengthen our existing partnerships, build new partnerships and invite new stakeholders to our community. Let us carry the IGF torch with us as we leave this beautiful country of Azerbaijan tonight or in the coming days, and to think about how each of us and our organizations can help ensure that the IGF continues to flourish in 2013 and beyond.

Thank you and have a safe trip home.

Unquote.