

Towards a Platform for Action on Media Reforms in the Arab States

REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP
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Background Documents

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PART 1: Codes of Ethics for the Media

Arab Codes of Ethics

Algeria
National Union of Journalists
13 April 2000

A professional journalist, whatever his status, is someone whose main, regular, paid activity is the exercise of the profession in one or several media, from which he derives the major part of his/her income. The right to information, to free speech and to criticism is one of the fundamental freedoms which participate in the defence of democracy and media pluralism. It is from that right, to learn and to publicise facts and opinions, that all the duties and rights of journalists derive.
The responsibility of a journalist towards the public is more important than any other, especially his/her responsibility towards his/her employer and towards the political authorities. The mission to inform inevitably implies limits which journalists freely enunciate and impose upon themselves. Hence the present declaration of duties. But those professional duties can only be genuinely assumed if all the concrete conditions exist for the independence of the journalist. Hence the declaration of rights that follows. The present charter is neither a law which curbs and represses, nor a code which imposes restrictions: it defines a series of rules of conduct based on principles that are universally accepted. These rules should govern the relationships among journalists and between them and the public. Freely accepted and democratically adopted, these rules should serve as a guide of conduct in the practice of journalism.
A Commission for personal and professional ethics, consisting of working journalists, will see to the respect of those principles.

Declaration of Duties

A journalist regards it as a duty to:

Respect truth, whatever the consequences for him/herself, because of the right that the public has of knowing it.

Defend the freedom to inform, to express opinions, to comment and to criticise.

Separate facts and comments.

Respect the private lives of people and their right to control the use of pictures made of themselves.

Publish only information that has been checked. Abstain from altering information. Strive to situate the facts reported in their context.

Abstain from broadcasting rumours.

Correct any publicised information which turns out to be inaccurate.

Keep professional secrecy and not reveal his/her sources.

To forgo plagiarism, slander, defamation and unfounded accusations.

Not to confuse the profession of journalism with that of advertising or propaganda; not to accept any instruction, direct or indirect, from advertisers.

Not to accept any editorial instruction except from the heads of the newsroom and only within the limits of the conscience clause.

Abstain from praising violence, terrorism, crime, fanaticism, racism, sexism and intolerance, in any form whatever.

A journalist worthy of the name, while heeding the laws of the country where he/she is, will only accept, in matters of professional honour, the jurisdiction of his peers, to the exclusion of any interference from government or any other agency.

Abstain from drawing any personal benefit from a situation in which his/her quality of journalist, his/her influence or contacts might be exploited.

Not seek the position of a colleague, not cause his/her firing or demotion by offering to do the same work for a lower salary.

Not confuse his/her mission with that of a judge or a policeman.

Respect the presumption of innocence.

Not use unfair methods to obtain information, photos or documents.

Declaration of Rights

A journalist is entitled to:

1. a free access to all sources of information and to freely investigate all the facts that impact on public life. He/she can only exceptionally be barred from sources, and for clearly stated motives.
2. The conscience clause.
3. Be informed of any major decision likely to affect the life of the company he/she works for.
4. A professional status.
5. Continuous education and professional training as part of his/her job.
6. Social and professional conditions required by the needs of the profession. A personal contract within collective agreements that will guarantee his/her economic security and independence.
7. The acknowledgement, and remuneration, of his rights as an author.
8. Respect for the journalistic product and the shape of its contents.

http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/codeethics.asp?UILang=1&CId=158544&CIdLang

2.Saudi Arabia
Media Charter
1982

(Adopted by Council of Ministers in 1982 - Excerpt)

- According to the guidelines in the information charter, the mass media in Saudi Arabia oppose destructive, trends, atheistic tendencies, materialistic philosophies and attempts to divert Muslims from their faith.
- Freedom of expression is guaranteed within the framework of Islamic and national objectives and values.
- Facts should be presented to the public objectively, without exaggeration or polemics. Likewise, pressmen should observe their code of ethics, work with honour and stay away from whatever may sow dissension or create, hatred and spite.
- The Saudi information's foreign policy adopts a humane attitude and fully respects the right of man to live in freedom on his national soil. It denounces every assault of whatever kind on the rights of peoples and individuals and combats expansionist designs. It also promotes right and justice, champions the cause of peace and stands against injustice and racial discrimination.
- Other guidelines include the promotion of the idea of obedience to God, His Messenger, parents and guardians and the preservation of the established order. The media will also work to push forward the wheel of development by co-operating with specialised institutions in this field.
- Saudi mass media will protect the higher interests of Arabs and Muslims, in general, and the country's nationals in particular, backing facts with documentary evidence and reliable references.
- They will highlight, at home and abroad, Saudi Arabia's unique and characteristic personality and show that the security and stability enjoyed by the country's citizens have no other reason but the adoption of Islam and Sharia as the Kingdom's sole constitution. Equally highlighted will be the burden willingly shouldered by Saudi Arabia as the custodian and servant of the Islamic shrines.
- The state, information policy also, aims at acquainting Saudis with their country and their brothers who live in this vast land to inject in them a sense of cohesion and integration. Programs will have to be based on scientific and well-studied principles presented by specialists.
- While recognising that women are men's sisters, the media will observe in their programs the nature of women and the role she is called to play in society without that role conflicting with such nature. Special attention will also be devoted to the youths, especiaIly during the precarious teenage period. Their problems will be dealt with in a way as to avoid their deviation from the right path.
- The press, radio and television will also lay stress on the Kingdom's rich heritage and, in co-operation, with educational and social institutions, promote the use of correct and pure literary Arabic language. Plays will have to be presented in literary Arabic and gradually popular programs will also be conducted in literary Arabic. Special care will be taken of the eradication of illiteracy and the teaching of Arabic to non-Arabic speaking people.

http://www.presscouncils.org/ht

3. Council of Arab Information Ministers
Arab Information Charter of Honour
August 1978

reviewed by the Council of Arab Information Ministers in Cairo (2-3 August 1978) as a prelude to Submission to the Arab Summit for approval

Executing the Arab solidarity charter approved by the Arab summit held at Casablanca in 15 September 1965 and referring to the recommendation and resolutions of the Arab Summit, the Arab League councils and the Council of the Arab Information ministers, which aimed at finding a constructive information policy on both national and humanitarian levels; and also committed to the recommendations of the permanent committee of Arab information at its 30th and 31st sessions that indicated "the necessity of announcing a national Arab Information Charter of Honour", in addition to the Arab information agreements;
Believing in the great role of information in mobilizing the public opinion in the Arab countries that determines national destinies in this crucial phase of the Arab contemporary history and in achieving Arab unity; also preserving the message of information and its high patriotic, national and humanitarian goals; beside the rapid development of means of communication among countries and peoples that has facilitated the finding of facts and interchange of information and drew a new theory of information as a pioneer work of fundamental civilization message of broad affect on individual and community lives;
It has been agreed upon the declaration of the following text of the Arab Information Charter of Honour.

General Principles:

1. Information is based on two rights: the right of expression and the right of knowledge. Hence it is deeply affecting every development activity of cognition, culture and education. Thus it should emphasize religious and moral values and the accumulated supreme principles of human legacies. It should search for plain truth that could serve justice and virtue. It should strengthen relations, deepen understanding and material and moral reactions and exchange among the Arab world community.
2. Freedom of expression is a basic condition for successful information. It is also a civilization gain that was achieved by a long human struggle and important part of fundamental liberties that was included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, responsibility is a basic condition, too, for practicing this freedom that should not limit the freedom of others.
   Responsibilities:
3. The Arab information media has got special responsibility towards the Arab human being. It should commit itself to present to him plain truth that could serve his causes, integrate his national identify and develop it culturally, socially and politically. Also, it should bring out his fundamental rights and liberties and consolidate his belief in spiritual values and true ethics. It should bring up the youth to respect the human rights and national dignity, and develop Man's sense of duty towards his society, country and the Arab nation.
4. The Arab media should make the Arab homeland, his heritage, history and human, material and moral resources and his just causes known.
5. The Arab media should care about Arab solidarity in all material that is presented to the public opinion inside and outside - it should contribute with all its capacity in

supporting understanding and cooperation between the Arab countries. It should avoid what might harm Arab solidarity and restrain from personal campaigns.

6. The Arab media should refuse apartheid, religious and other kinds of fundamentalism. It struggles for the just principles and the right of self-determination of the peoples, and right of individuals in freedom and dignity. It should be committed to the struggle against all kinds of colonialism, different types of aggression and should support the developing and non-aligned countries. It should coordinate with the friendly media people to influence the international public opinion for the benefit of the Arabs and their friends.
7. The Arab journalists should commit themselves to truth and honesty while they are doing their job and should restrain from degrading other peoples directly or indirectly and should respect their national sovereignty and choices.They should not interfere in their domestic affairs. Also, they shouldn't abuse the media to propagate violence or to insult heads of states.
8. The Arab journalists should commit themselves to truth and objectivity in publishing news and comments. They should refrain from using illegal methods in obtaining news, pictures, documents, etc. and they should keep their sources secret, as far as national security is not involved.
9. The Arab journalists should keep the Arabic language correct and sound and expand it among the Arab nation in order to substitute dialects.
10. The Arab media should pay special attention to Arab news and information materials in general, and to the news and materials that are supplied by the Arab and friendly newspapers.
11. The Arab journalists should bring up individual gifts and capabilities and discover them among the new generations.

The Duties of Governments and Institutions:

12. The Arab governments guarantee the freedom of professional consciousness of the journalists. They should facilitate their work in accordance with this charter and the supreme Arab goals.
13. The Arab governments guarantee the free movement of Arab journalists in all parts of the Arab homeland and should guarantee the freedom of work and professional organization.
14. The Arab governments facilitate the freedom of Arab press circulation and the free flow of information. They should not confiscate or censor unless there is absolute necessity.
15. The rights of authors are guaranteed by law and all necessary legislation for this purpose should be put to effect in all Arab countries.

Source: Nordenstreng, Kaarle (Ed.) 1989: Journalist: Status, Rights and Responsibilities. Prague: International Organization of Journalists, p.275-277

http://www.journalism-islam.de/konferenzen/codes.html#cou

4. Lebanon
Charter of Professional Honour
4 February 1974

The General Assembly of the Press Syndicate in The Lebanon has approved this legacy at the extraordinary meeting of the 4 February 1974

The Lebanese press, being proud of its glorious history which is rich with struggle and martyrdom for the cause of the country and the citizen, a history, that is intertwined with the history of free thought and national and popular struggle, is pleased to declare - as part of the ethics of the profession - the overall principles of behaviour that were set forth by its pioneers; the pioneers who established the ethics, customs and tradition of the profession. The profession has been committed, since its establishment, to these principles which have become stronger than laws and resolutions. The Lebanese press would like to reiterate these principles in order to end disputes concerning the grounds for practising the profession:

1. The newspaper is an institution that renders a cultural, social, patriotic, national and humanitarian public service. However, it also has a commercial and industrial character. Through practicing its own freedom it is also committed to defend this freedom and civil liberties.
2. The responsibility of the periodical is not confined to respecting the law alone, but also to respecting professional conscience and the reader
3. The newspaper should be committed to truth, honesty, accuracy and the principle of not disclosing sources.
4. The periodical is a forum belonging to the readers, who enjoy the right to express their views and the right to reply.
5. The newspaper has to mobilize public opinion in defence of the country, right and justice, and resist aggression and unjust force.
6. Periodicals should avoid fanaticism and inciting sentiments and differences as well as slanders and insults.
7. Distorted news are not fit to be published.
8. Groundless accusations and lies degrade the press.
9. The paper should avoid publishing unconfirmed news, unless stated as such.
10. The periodical should avoid publishing materials that can encourage vice or crime.
11. The press respects the reputation of the individual and preserves his dignity. It should not pry into his private life.
12. Defamation, exaggeration and black-mail are characteristics of a 'yellow press', unknown to the Lebanese profession.
13. Campaigns of character assination degrade the profession.
14. A paper should not use illegal methods to get news and secrets.
15. Public interests is paramount and comes before the success or continuation of the paper.

The Lebanese press, which is proud of these ethical bases, is proud that it has presented this Charter of Honour and which the Arab journalists have adopted. It is, also, proud that it contributes towards recording the history of its time, shaping public opinion and volunteering to perform a message or a role in the practice of democracy and the defence of public interests.

Source: Nordenstreng, Kaarle (Ed.) 1989: Journalist: Status, Rights and Responsibility. Prague: International Organization of Journalists, p.174-175

http://www.ijnet.org

5. Federation of Arab Journalists
Arab Code of Ethics
April 1972

Adopted by Third Conference of the Federation of Arab Journalists, April 1972, Baghdad.
The Code is based on the following principles:

- Commitments to the objectives of the public and the right of the Arab nation to unity, freedom and progress.
- Journalists adhere to respect the right of individuals to privacy and dignity. They should abstain from publishing personal or family scandals aiming to weaken family relations.
- The message of the press is sacred, it should not be subjected to opportunism, dishonesty, defamation.
- The message of the press entails adherence to objective reality and truth. Journalists are committed to obtain information and facts by legal means and to correct any published material in case of discovering inaccuracy in it.
- Solidarity among Arab journalists must be based on defence of professional ethics, exposing those who behave improperly or those who seek out personal profit and give priority to personal interests by publishing unfounded news and by making statements aiming to create sensation and to encourage corruption and crime.
- Journalists are committed to support justice in courts not to stand by any party against the other or support any case as far as the authority concerned had not issued the sentence yet.
- Journalists should respect publication rights, abstain from plagiarism.
- Before practicing the profession the journalist - according to the statute of his own organization - should make the following oath: "I swear by professional honour to perform my work honestly and truthfully, keep professional secrets, abide by its regulations and traditions and defend its dignity."
- There should be a demarcation between opinions and advertisements so that no propaganda or political opinions and ideas slip into publication as edited materials. Such materials should be clearly specified as advertisements in newspapers and magazines.

Political advertisements submitted by foreign bodies are prohibited unless they are in harmony with the national policy. In that case publication should be equal to established ordinary prices in order not to turn advertisement into indirect donation from a Foreign State.
Members of affiliated unions and organizations should refrain from publishing their names under advertisements so that the reputation and moral influence of journalists are not utilized by advertizers.
Advertisement represents a social service, its essential function is to push the scale of goods which are useful to the consumer and such a function does need to be performed through lies or cheating. Newspapers, magazines and other mass media are entitled to check data and facts in advertisements in order to maintain the reputation of the press. In addition, journalists should dedicate pages for special issues on edited advertisement which spread propaganda for the benefit of imperialist states, reactionary forces and foreign monopolies which contradicts supreme Arab interests.

http://www.journalism-islam.de/konferenzen/codes.html#cou

6. Iraq
Rules of Professional Ethics
February 1968

The Iraqi Syndicate Law 178 of 1969 has included rules of professional ethics inspired by the resolutions of the Second Congress of the Federation of Arab Journalists, convened in Cairo, February 1968. Article 25 of the law says that the member should not

1. Violate or hinder the implementation of the Syndicate Law, its bylaws or the orders issued in accordance with them.
2. Practice the profession without renewal of his membership in the Syndicate in accordance with the law.
3. Use any ways or means to gain illegal profit.
4. Discredit the profession or disclose his sources.
5. Harm the senior or junior members of the media, block their lawful moral or material rights or assign them to private or public tasks that might lead them to break this law.
6. Threaten citizens by methods using the press.
7. Make any declaration or suggestion that might benefit an enemy at the expense of the country.
8. Undermine the confidence of the country, directly or indirectly.
9. Misuse the press media for gossip, slander or accusation of citizens without any right or patriotic and legal justification.
10. Abuse the print press media and illustrations for personal gains that harm others and claim other's identity, ideas or work.
11. Instigate the instincts of the public by any means that contradict the journalistic art and the interests of society.
12. Violate legal, private and public liberties guaranteed by law, through the use of the press.
13. Misguide public opinion by publishing wrong and distorted information.
14. Publish unconfirmed reports.
15. Take sides in a case where the verdict was not announced by the authorities concerned.
16. Publish wrong information and statements and omit to correct them as soon as the facts are known. The right of reply is sacred.
17. Use others' excerpts without mentioning the writer or the source.

Source: Nordenstreng, Kaarle (Ed.) 1989: Journalist: Status, Rights and Responsibility. Prague: International Organization of Journalists, p.176

http://www.ijnet.org

7. Code of Ethics of the Jordanian Journalists

Article (1): The Journalist shall be committed to:

a- Maintaining the secrecy of his sources as well as checking the stability of news and information before publishing them. He shall also be committed in his professional behavior to the principles of honor, fairness and honesty.

b- Respecting religious values as a base for intellectual and cultural heritage.

c- Defending the causes of freedom, enhancing the democratic practice and supporting the citizen's right in positive participation in the causes of the country and daily issues.

d- Working to assert national unity and protect it to be a base for the community's strength and development.

e- Asserting the joint past, present and future history of the nation, supporting freedom movements in the world and condemning racial segregation movements in the world.

f- Not using the profession for illegal personal gains and avoiding expressions of slander, libel and defamation and commitment to national responsibility without redundancy and triteness.

g- Affirming the sovereignty of law and supporting justice in judicial cases. Being far from provocation in publishing crimes and scandals. Not publishing reports, articles and photos, which contradict general ethics and manners. Respecting the reputation of families and individuals and respecting the private lives of citizens.

h- Avoiding any differences or insults among journalists and maintaining the entity of the association to serve the message of the press and referring to its rules and laws regarding journalism issues.

Article (2): The journalist shall be prohibited from:

a-practicing journalism in a way that violates valid law and the association's regulations.

b-performing any act or action that contradicts the profession's dignity or harms the association or its members.

c-behaving improperly with his colleagues or with others or defamation of journalists without moral or material right specified by laws, regulations or the profession's traditions.

d-accepting any presents, financial or material donations or any aid of any kind without previous approval of the council.

e-violating the association's law and hindering the application of its law, internal system and regulations issued upon it.

f-using the written or drown word for private purposes that might harm others.

g-exciting the public by any news and misleading them with incorrect information and viewing facts in a biased manner or using media for defamation.

h-publish wrong data and information and neglecting to correct them immediately after acknowledging the truth.

http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/codeethics.asp?UILang=1&CId=203154&CIdLang=1

8. National Union of the Moroccan Press

(Adopted by the National Union of the Moroccan Press - SNPM)
In order to strengthen the journalistic profession, and to preserve its dignity, the "Syndicat national de la presse marocaine" (SNPM) has adopted an ethical charter which applies to both editors and reporters. Membership in the SNPM implies respect for this charter.
1. A journalist seeks his foundation in the honour of the profession, the principles of free expression and human rights.
2. He pledges to seek the truth, to tell it faithfully to public opinion since he respects the citizen's right to information.
3. He pledges to respect his sources of information and not to plagiarise the stories and other work of his colleagues.
4. He must never confuse journalistic work and advertising work.
5. He avoids libel and mendacious statements.
6. He respects the pluralism of ideas.
7. He refuses any non-professional intervention and rejects the acceptance of any benefit likely to hurt the honour of the profession.
8. He shows solidarity with his colleagues and supports them when they are prosecuted or persecuted because of an honourable exercise of the profession.
9. He defends the dignity of the profession against all forms of exploitation.

http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/codeethics.asp?UILang=1&CId=158597&CIdLang=1

International Codes of Ethics

1. International Principles of Professional Ethics in Journalism (UNESCO)
November 1983

Issued by the fourth consultative meeting of international and regional journalists, Paris, 1983, under the auspices of UNESCO.
Taking part: The International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the International Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP), the Latin-American Federation of Journalists (FELAP), the Latin-American Federation of Press Workers (FELATRAP), the Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ), the Union of African Journalists (UJA), and the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ) – representing, overall, 400,000 working journalists from all over the world.

Principle I: People's Right to True Information
People and individuals have the right to acquire an objective picture of reality by means of accurate and comprehensive information as well as to express themselves freely through the various media of culture and communication.

Principle II: The Journalist's Dedication to Objective Reality
The foremost task of the journalist is to serve the people's right to true and authentic information through an honest dedication to objective reality whereby facts are reported conscientiously in their proper context, pointing out their essential connections and without causing distortions, with due deployment of the creative capacity of the journalist, so that the public is provided with adequate material to facilitate the formation of an accurate and comprehensive picture of the world in which the origin, nature and essence of events, processes and states of affairs are understood as objectively as possible.

Principle III: The Journalist's Social Responsibility
Information in journalism is understood as a social good and not as a commodity, which means that the journalist shares responsibility for the information transmitted and is thus accountable not only to those controlling the media but ultimately to the public at large, including various social interests. The journalist's social responsibility requires that he or she will act under all circumstances in conformity with a personal ethical consciousness.

Principle IV: The Journalist's Professional Integrity
The social role of the journalist demands that the profession maintain high standards of integrity, including the journalist's right to refrain from working against his or her conviction or from disclosing sources of information, as well as the right to participate in the decision-making of the medium in which he or she is employed. The integrity of the profession does not permit the journalist to accept any form of bribe or the promotion of any private interest contrary to the general welfare. Likewise it belongs to professional ethics to respect intellectual property and, in particular, to refrain from plagiarism.

Principle V: Public Access and Participation
The nature of the profession demands that the journalist promote access by the public to information and participation by the public in the media, including the

right of correction or rectification and the right of reply.

Principal VI: Respect for Privacy and Human Dignity
An integral part of the professional standards of the journalist is respect for the right of the individual to privacy and human dignity, in conformity with provisions of international and national law concerning protection of the rights and the reputation of others, prohibiting libel, calumny, slander and defamation.

Principal VII: Respect for Public Interest
The professional standards of the journalist prescribe due respect for the national community, its democratic institutions and public morals.

Principal VIII: Respect for Universal Values and Diversity of Cultures
A true journalist stands for the universal values of humanism, above all peace, democracy, human rights, social progress and national liberation, while respecting the distinctive character, value and dignity of each culture, as well as the right of each people freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems. Thus the journalist participates actively in the social transformation towards democrative betterment of society and contributes through dialogue to a climate of confidence in international relations conducive to peace and justice everywhere, to détente, disarmament and national development. It belongs to the ethics of the profession that they journalist be aware of relevant provisions contained in international conventions, declarations and resolutions.

Principle IX: Elimination of War and Other Great Evils Confronting Humanity
The ethical commitment to the universal values of humanism calls for the journalist to abstain from any justification for, or incitement to, wars of aggression, and the arms race, especially in nuclear weapons, and all other forms of violence, hatred or discrimination, especially racialism and apartheid, oppression by tyrannical regimes, colonialism and neo-colonialism, as well as other great evils which afflict humanity, such as poverty, malnutrition and diseases. By so doing, the journalist can help eliminate ignorance and misunderstanding among peoples, make nationals of a country sensitive to the needs and desires of others, ensure the respect for the rights and dignity of all nations, all peoples and all individuals without distinction of race, sex, language,
nationality, religion or philosophical conviction.

Principal X: Promotion of a New World Information and Communication Order
The journalist operates in the contemporary world within the framework of a movement towards new international relations in general and a new information order in particular. This new order, understood as in integral part of the New International Economic Order, is aimed at the de-colonisation and democratisation of the field of information and communication, both nationally and internationally, on the basis of peaceful coexistence among peoples and with full respect for their cultural identity. The journalist has a special obligation to promote the process of democratisation of international relations in the field of information, in particular by safeguarding and fostering peaceful and friendly relations among States and peoples.

http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/codeethics.asp?UILang=1&CId=8320&CIdLang=1

2. Islamic Mass Media Charter
September 1980

adopted by the First International Islamic Mass Media Conference, Jakarta,1.-3. September 1980. The Islamic Mass Media Charter is an integral part of the Jakarta Declaration
In keeping with our belief in Allah and Allah's Apostle; and in implementation of Islamic Shariah; and in complete awareness of the imminent dangers besetting the Muslim Ummah and impeding its religious reawakening and in appreciation of the important role of the various forms of Mass-Media and its worthy aims, integrity of the profession and its tradition and; conscious of the goals and aspirations of the Ummah, we workers in the Islamic Media who are now gathered here at the First International Islamic Mass-Media Conference, hereby endorse this charter for Islamic Media. We solemnly pledge to conform to it and regard it a torchlight for all our endeavours as well as a source of rights and obligations.

Article 1
- Consolidation of faith of the Muslim individual in Islamic values and ethical principles.
- Work towards achieving integration of the Muslim individual's Islamic personality.
- Endeavour to present real facts within the frame-work of Islamic rule of conduct.
- Endeavour to acquaint the Muslim individual with his duties towards others, his basic rights and liberties.

Article 2
- Muslim Media-Men should strive to unite the ranks of Muslims, and to advocate resorting to wisdom, Islamic brotherhood and tolerance in solving their problems.
- Islamic Media-men should be committed to the following: To combat all forms of colonialism, aggression, Fascism and Racism.
- To combat Zionism and its colonialist policy of creating settlements as well as its ruthless suppression of the Palestinian people.
- Islamic Media-men should keep vigilance against anti-Islamic ideas and trends.

Article 3
- Islamic Media-Men should censor all material which is either broadcast or published, in order to protect the Ummah from influences which are harmful to Islamic character and values, and in order to forestall all dangers.
- Islamic Media-workers should follow a decent style in carrying out the duties and should in preserving the integrity of the profession and Islamic traditions avoid using offensive words and refrain from publishing obscene material, nor indulge in cynicism, slander, provocation of "Fitna" rumour-mongering and other forms of defamatory actions.
- To refrain from either broadcasting or publishing anything that goes against public morality and the rules of decent demeanour. This also means any condoning of crime, violence, suicide or anything that arouses terror or provokes lower instincts, whether directly or indirectly, should be strictly avoided.
- Commercial advertisements which go against morality should be stricly debarred from either broadcasts or publications.

Article 4

Islamic journalists must be committed to the propagation of Da'wah, to elucidating Islamic issues and to the defence of Muslim point of view. They should also seek to introduce Muslim peoples to one another. They should also be interested in Islamic history, Islamic civilization and the promotion of Arabic language and its dissemination among Muslims, especially Muslim minorities. They should also be committed to re-establish the dominion of Shariah, in lieu of man-made laws and principles. They must be committed to struggle for the liberation of Palestine, especially Al-Quds. They must be totally dedicated to the idea of the Islamic Ummah which must be untainted by either regional, national or tribal chauvinism. They must also strongly advocate the fight against under development in all its manifestations and support the effort towards full development which should guarantee to the Ummah its betterment and power.

Source: "The Journal Rabitat Al-Alam Al-lslami", 7. 1980 (12), p. 60-61

http://www. ijnet.org

3. International Federation of Journalists
Declaration of Principles on the Conduct of Journalists
Adopted in 1954 and Amended in 1986

adopted by the Second World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists at Bordeaux on 25-28 April 1954 and amended by the 18th IFJ World Congress in Helsingör on 2-6 June 1986.

This international Declaration is proclaimed as a standard of professional conduct for journalists engaged ingathering, transmitting, disseminating and commenting on news and information and in describing events.

1. Respect for truth and for the right of the public to truth is the first duty of the journalist.
2. In pursuance of this duty, the journalist shall at all times defend the principles of freedom in the honest collection and publication of news, and of the right of fair comment and criticism.
3. The journalist shall report only in accordance with facts of which he/ she knows the origin. The journalist shall not suppress essential information or falsify documents.
4. The journalist shall use only fair methods to obtain news, photographs and documents.
5. The journalist shall do the utmost to rectify any published information which is found to be harmfully inaccurate.
6. The journalist shall observe professional secrecy regarding the source of information obtained in confidence.
7. The journalist shall be aware of the danger of discrimination being furthered by the media, and shall do the utmost to avoid facilitating such discrimination based on, among other things, race, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, and national or social origins.
8. The journalist shall regard as grave professional offences the following:
    - Plagiarism
    - malicious misrepresentation
    - calumny, slander, libel, unfounded accusations
    - the acceptance of a bribe in any form in consideration of either publication or suppression.
9. Journalists worthy of that name shall deem in their duty to observe faithfully the principles stated above. Within the general law of each country the journalist shall recognize in professional matters the jurisdiction of colleagues only, to the exclusion of every kind of interference by governments or others.

http://www.journalism-islam.de/konferenzen/codes.html#cou

4. Society of professional journalists (SPJ)
Code of Ethics

Preamble : Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Conscientious journalists from all media and specialties strive to serve the public with thoroughness and honesty. Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility. Members of the Society share a dedication to ethical behavior and adopt this code to declare the Society's principles and standards of practice.

Seek Truth and Report It

Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

Journalists should:

- Test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible.
- Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- Identify sources whenever feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on sources' reliability.
- Always question sources' motives before promising anonymity. Clarify conditions attached to any promise made in exchange for information. Keep promises.
- Make certain that headlines, news teases and promotional material, photos, video, audio, graphics, sound bites and quotations do not misrepresent. They should not oversimplify or highlight incidents out of context.
- Never distort the content of news photos or video. Image enhancement for technical clarity is always permissible. Label montages and photo illustrations.
- Avoid misleading re-enactments or staged news events. If re-enactment is necessary to tell a story, label it.
- Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information except when traditional open methods will not yield information vital to the public. Use of such methods should be explained as part of the story
- Never plagiarize.
- Tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience boldly, even when it is unpopular to do so.
- Examine their own cultural values and avoid imposing those values on others.
- Avoid stereotyping by race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance or social status.
- Support the open exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- Give voice to the voiceless; official and unofficial sources of information can be equally valid.
- Distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context.
- Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two.
- Recognize a special obligation to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open and that government records are open to inspection.

Minimize Harm

Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.

Journalists should:

- Show compassion for those who may be affected adversely by news coverage. Use special sensitivity when dealing with children and inexperienced sources or subjects.
- Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs of those affected by tragedy or grief.
- Recognize that gathering and reporting information may cause harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance.
- Recognize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than do public officials and others who seek power, influence or attention. Only an overriding public need can justify intrusion into anyone's privacy.
- Show good taste. Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity.
- Be cautious about identifying juvenile suspects or victims of sex crimes.
- Be judicious about naming criminal suspects before the formal filing of charges.
- Balance a criminal suspect's fair trial rights with the public's right to be informed.

Act Independently

Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know.

Journalists should:

- Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived.
- Remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility.
- Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel and special treatment, and shun secondary employment, political involvement, public office and service in community organizations if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable.
- Deny favored treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence news coverage.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; avoid bidding for news.

Be Accountable

Journalists are accountable to their readers, listeners, viewers and each other.

Journalists should:

Clarify and explain news coverage and invite dialogue with the public over journalistic conduct.

Encourage the public to voice grievances against the news media.

Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.

Expose unethical practices of journalists and the news media.

Abide by the same high standards to which they hold others.

The SPJ Code of Ethics is voluntarily embraced by thousands of writers, editors and other news professionals. The present version of the code was adopted by the 1996 SPJ National Convention, after months of study and debate among the Society's members.

http://www.spj.org/ethics_code.asp

C. Proposed Guidelines for Good Journalistic Practice

1. Al-Jazeera - Qatar
Proposed Code of Ethics
2004

Being a globally oriented media service, Aljazeera shall determinedly adopt the following code of ethics in pursuance of the vision and mission it has set for itself:

1. Adhere to the journalistic values of honesty, courage, fairness, balance, independence, credibility and diversity, giving no priority to commercial or political considerations over professional ones.
2. Endeavour to get to the truth and declare it in our dispatches, programmes and news bulletins unequivocally in a manner which leaves no doubt about its validity and accuracy.
3. Treat our audiences with due respect and address every issue or story with due attention to present a clear, factual and accurate picture while giving full consideration to the feelings of victims of crime, war, persecution and disaster, their relatives and our viewers, and to individual privacy and public decorum.
4. Welcome fair and honest media competition without allowing it to affect adversely our standards of performance so that getting a 'scoop' will not become an end in itself.
5. Present diverse points of view and opinions without bias or partiality.
6. Recognise diversity in human societies with all their races, cultures and beliefs and their values and intrinsic individualities in order to present unbiased and faithful reflection of them.
7. Acknowledge a mistake when it occurs, promptly correct it and ensure it does not recur.
8. Observe transparency in dealing with news and news sources while adhering to internationally established practices concerning the rights of these sources.
9. Distinguish between news material, opinion and analysis to avoid the pitfalls of speculation and propaganda.
10. Stand by colleagues in the profession and offer them support when required, particularly in light of the acts of aggression and harassment to which journalists are subjected at times. Cooperate with Arab and international journalistic unions and associations to defend freedom of the press.

http://www.ijnet.org/FE_Article/codeethics.asp?UILang=1&CId=233938&CIdLang=1

2. Proposed Guidelines for Good Journalistic Practice

In the Seminar Held at the Lebanese American University "Freedom of Expression and the Media in Lebanon"

May 2001

Freedom of Expression and the Media in Lebanon, IPJ/IPI Seminar, May 2001

Preamble:

These guidelines for a code of good journalistic practice are dedicated to journalists in Lebanon (and by extension the Arab World). They aim at ensuring that all those practicing journalism adhere to the highest ethical standards, professional competence and exemplary conduct in carrying out their duties.

A journalist should strive to maintain the highest professional standards by observing the following guidelines regarding sources, gifts/junkets/benefits, accuracy/fairness and freedom/privacy/relevance:

A. Sources:

- Not plagiarize. Information obtained from other media organizations or other sources must be clearly identified as such.
- Clearly identify pictures, videos and reports from other sources by providing references to the sources in print, on the air and on screen.
- Identify handout video, video news releases, standard press kits, etc., which should only be used when other video or other still pictures are unavailable.
- Protect confidential sources of information, unless deceived by those sources.
- Make adequate inquiries and cross-check his/her facts. Substantiate news from private or public sources before publishing or broadcasting it.
- Question sources' motives before promising anonymity.
- Corroborate information from unnamed sources through one or more sources and/or by documentary data.
- Not allow unnamed sources to attack others or take cheap shots in stories.

B. Gifts/Junkets/Benefits:

- Not accept money, paid trips, gifts or bribes from sources he/she covers. Accepting gifts compromises journalistic impartiality, or the appearance thereof. Avoid any appearance of conflict of interest that may occur through contracts, favors or public commitments. Not work for an institution he/she covers.
- Pay his/her own way or acknowledge the fact that he/she was offered special accommodations as part of his/her work—such as riding on an interviewee's jet or staying at a private estate to interview the person.
- Disclose any direct or indirect payment made for interviews. Not pay people who act as information sources.
- Not use journalistic position for personal gain. Not take private advantage of information gained in the course of his/her duties before it is made public.
- Not endorse by advertisement any commercial product or service except to promote his/her own work or the medium by which he/she is employed. Not promise a story in exchange of advertising.

- Not be influenced by vested interests, whether they are commercial, political, governmental or non-governmental.
- Not work in public relations, publicity or teaching of courses on how to deal with the media, or in staged news conferences to prepare public officials in such dealings, to avoid partisanship.
- Not threaten to publish/broadcast or not publish/broadcast a story for the purpose of unlawful benefit.

C. <u>Accuracy/Fairness:</u>

- Be honest, fair, impartial, independent, respect the rights of others, respect human rights, constantly pursue accuracy, be tolerant, put a high value on individuals' honor, maintain decency, have strong values, and, exercise moderation and common sense.
- Admit errors, correct them and apologize when necessary. Rectify any information found or likely to be harmfully inaccurate.
- Identify still pictures correctly and not manipulate them. Not manipulate audio, video or interactive information for illegal or unethical purposes. Clearly identify a symbolic photograph, noting in the caption that it is not a documentary picture.
- Not allow personal beliefs or commitments to undermine accuracy, fairness and independence.
- Work towards eliminating distortion, news suppression and censorship.
- Avoid the expression of comment and conjecture as established fact and falsification by distortion, selection or misrepresentation.
- Not originate material that encourages discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, gender, language, political affiliations, social origins, physical or mental condition, or sexual orientation.
- Not libel, slander, or engage in malicious misinterpretation.
- Proceed with great caution in publishing names of, or information about, members of police or security forces, which may endanger their lives or those of their families. Collaborate with police only if the lives and health of victims or other persons involved in incidents of threats or violence can be protected or saved by a journalist's actions.
- Respect standards of taste and decency and not offend the public unless the public interest is furthered by confrontation with seemingly offensive truths.
- Separate comments from facts. Put facts and opinions in their proper context so they are understandable, without exaggerating or diminishing their scope.
- Respect embargoes on stories.
- Write headlines that match the contents of the articles they accompany.
- Not publish rumors unless they come from credible sources and contribute to the understanding of events. They must always be identified as rumors.
- Not distort the meaning of people's words by distorting quotations or their sequence.
- Not, as a rule, obtain information through undercover means such as false identity, hidden microphones and cameras, spying, infiltrating, or misleading reasons about the news coverage. In exceptional cases journalists may do so if it is of definite public interest, where reprehensible actions must be exposed, or the information cannot be obtained through other means.
- Not use hidden cameras, recorders or microphones where a promise was made not to use them at all.

- Always identify re-enactments and dramatizations. Not present staged or rehearsed material as spontaneous. Not manipulate reality by inciting demonstrators to use violence or agitation to violence in front of the cameras.
- Respect the presumed innocence of suspects and the accused and not present them as criminals, by using the conditional.
- Not become a platform for propaganda in hostage, terrorism, riot or barricade situations since the presence of the media can excite a crowd.
- Respect pluralism.
- Be responsible for his/her statements and work.
- Inform the public how the selection of products was made and how they were tested in the case of consumer-oriented journalistic material.
- Indicate the number of people interviewed, the date a poll was conducted and identify of a poll's sponsor, when publishing findings by opinion polling organizations, particularly during elections.
- Exercise restraint when reporting on cases of suicide.
- Reject sensationalism or misleading emphasis.
- Seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- Distinguish between advocacy and news reporting.
- Be accountable, clarify news coverage and invite public dialogue over journalistic conduct.
- Encourage the public to voice grievances against news media.
- Expose unethical practices of journalists and news media.

D. <u>Freedom/Privacy/Relevance:</u>

- Not use relatives or friends in print or on the air unless they are prominent in their own right or part of a story.
- Not violate people's right to privacy or endanger their lives. Not intrude into private grief and distress, unless justified by public interest considerations.
- Exercise particular care for the welfare of children and consider the impact of TV, radio and other media on children. Not interview minors except in the presence of, or with the consent of, a parent or guardian, unless an interview is intended to protect a child's interests or if the child is already under close public attention.
- Not identify victims and juvenile offenders.
- Try to ensure that life threatening, anti-social or criminal behavior does not encourage copycat actions.
- Defend the principles of freedom of the press and promote freedom of expression.
- Cultivate and defend the public right to receive information about issues of public interest. Be responsible and constantly mindful not to impair public interests.
- Recognize conflicting loyalties, search for alternatives and consider consequences.
- Inform, educate, entertain and enrich the lives of readers, listeners, viewers or browsers.

Recommendations:

1. There should be no restrictions on who may practice journalism.
2. There should be no legal requirement for membership in any journalists' association or federation.
3. Journalists should be tried under civil, not criminal, law.
4. Lebanon should strive to pass into law a Freedom of Information Act.

http://ipj.lau.edu.lb/guidelines/

Council for Mass Media in Finland
Guidelines for good journalistic practice
Approved by the Union of Journalists
1992

Introduction :

The basis of good journalistic practice is a citizen´s right to correct and essential information by which he can form a realistic picture of the world and society around him.
The professional ethics of a journalist involves the respecting of basic human values, like human rights, democracy, peace and international understanding.
A journalist must recognize his responsibility for the environment and be aware of the environmental effects related to the questions he deals with.
Good journalistic practice does not limit either the journalist´s own or the public´s freedom of expression. It aims at promoting discussion and information flow, and involves responsibility for the principles and policies of communication.
The guidelines for journalists concern all journalistic work, regardless of the medium.
Nevertheless, they do not cover all situations arising in practice. The decisions and statements on principle of the Council for Mass Media interpret and complement these guidelines.
Good practice also involves a journalist knowing the most important laws, regulations, international agreements and resolutions related to his work.

Professional status :

1. Decisions concerning the content of communications must be made on journalistic grounds. In no way must this authority be relinquished outside the editorial office.
2. A journalist is primarily responsible to his readers, listeners and viewers. He should not deal with subjects which might involve personal gain.
3. A journalist has the right and obligation to reject pressure or inducement with whict someone might try to direct, prevent or limit communications.
4. A journalist must not misuse his own position or that of his medium nor accept benefits which might compromise his independence or his possibility to operate in accordance with the principles of his professional ethics.
5. A journalist must not act against own convictions or good journalistic practice. He can refuse assignments which are inconsistent with this principle.
6. Good practice must be observed in using the work of another party. Although this might not involve material with copyright protection, it is good practice to mention the source when using information acquired and published largely by a second party.
7. Textual advertising in all its forms is to be avoided. Material which can be associated with commercial interests should be viewed critically. Such material can only be published if there are strong journalistic arguments for this. The line between advertising and editorial material must be kept clear.

Correct information :

8. In his work, a journalist must aim at truthful, essential and unbiased information.
9. Sources of information must be treated critically. This is particularly important in dealing with a controversial matter: the information source might have personal interests or the intention to cause damage.
10. Factual information must be checked as thoroughly as possible, including cases where the information has been published previously.

11. The public must be provided with the opportunity to distinguish facts from opinions and fictional material used to provide backround. This principle does not restrict the choice of journalistic style or form.
12. Headlines, leads, cover and picture captions, sales-promotion posters for publications and other presentation material must be justified by the body of the story.
13. In addition, pictures and sound must be used truthfully. The recipient must be told wheather the material is of a documentary or fictional nature.

Acquiring information :

14. Information must be acquired openly and by using honest means. Exceptional methods can only be resorted to if information of general public importance cannot be obtained by normal means.
15. A person being interviewed must have the right to know in which medium and in what connection his statements will be used. It is also good practice to tell whether the conversation is intended for publication or simply as background material.
16. If justified, a journalist should comply with an interviewee's request to check his statement before publication to ensure questions of fact are correct. However, journalistic authority cannot be relinquished outside the editorial office by such checking.
17. Sources of information must be protected. The identity of a person providing confidential information cannot be disclosed without permission. This is also the case concerning the identity of a person employing a pseudonym or pen name in the journalist's own medium.

Corrections and right of reply :

18. Incorrect information must be corrected without delay, either on a journalist's own initiative or when the person concerned requests it.
19. Someone subjected to heavy criticism must be granted the right of reply if he has grounds for requesting this. Simply a difference of opinion does not necessary give entitlement to the right of reply.
20. If the request for a right to reply is justified, the reply must be published in a form desired by the person making the reply without delay and in such a manner that those receiving the original information can notice the reply easily.
21. If the reply is not fit for publication as such, changes to it should be discussed with the writer. If he cannot be contacted within a reasonable time, it is advisable to publish the reply in amended form. However, its essential contents must not be changed.
22. If a certain person is strongly criticized in the medium, it is good journalistic practice to make his point of view when possible in this connection.

Protection of the individual :

23. The human dignity and reputation of every individual must be protected. Skin colour, nationality, origins, religious or political convictions, sex or other personal characteristics must not be published if they are not related to the matter or in a derogatory way.
24. Detrimental facs related to the private life of a person or his family should not be published unless these are of considerable public interest.
25. Care must be observed in the publication of photographs. A picture cannot be used in a misleading way or in connection with something offensive to the party concerned. Particular care must be taken in publishing pictures of victims of accidents or crime.
26. The publication of a name or other identifying facts when dealing with crime can only be justified on the grounds that considerable public interest is served by this. The identity of a person should generally not be disclosed before court proceedings unless the nature of the crime or the position of the party concerned provide strong reasons for this.

27. No prior assumption of guilt should be made, nor should the decision of a court or an authority be anticipated.
28. If a news item on the report of an offence, arrest, imprisonment, charge or complaint has been published, it is good journalistic practice to follow the proceedings of the case right up to the final resolution.
29. The principles covering the protection of the individual also apply when information contained in public documents or other public sources is being used. The public availability of information does not necessarily imply that it can be freely published.

http://www.jsn.fi/english/guidel.html

PART 2: Recommendations of Media Related Conferences

1. Arab Press Freedom Watch Third Annual Conference
"Freeing the Arab Media from State Control"
Rabat, 3-6 May 2004

Objectives:

The Third annual Conference will be held at a time when the whole world will be celebrating the World Press Freedom Day. At the same time APFW will be celebrating with its members and advocates of freedom of expression in the Arab world that it has successfully developed most of its basic infrastructure, central operation, a regional network and a well maintained website that mirrors the activities of APFW and the freedom of expression movement throughout the Arab world.

APFW Third Annual Conference is mainly about media policy reform in the Arab world. The main aim of the conference is to develop comprehensive views about media policy reform and well-defined plans on how to develop pressure on governments to introduce these reforms. Within this principle message of the need for media policy reform, the conference aims to achieve the following objectives:

1- To develop a capacity to monitor violations of freedom of expression and campaign against all forms of attacks on media independence and freedom of expression.

2- To bring together experiences gained within APFW, syndicates of journalists and media outlets in order to forge a strong alliance for freedom of expression and democracy in the Arab world.

3- To discuss ways to limit the role of the state in the Arab media and to promote unified themes to help free Arab media from all forms of state intervention and pressure.

4- To raise awareness of the danger of the role of state controlled media in the Arab world and to discuss ways to engage the public in the fight for freedom of expression.

5- To further the cooperation between Arab Press Freedom Watch (APFW), syndicates of Arab journalists, independent media organisations and international institutions interested in promoting freedom of expression and democracy in the Arab world.

6- To provide a free platform for discussion, exchange of views and experiences between members of APFW and to develop workable and more effective plans to achieve the objectives of APFW.

In order to move forward on developing the structure of APFW, the 3rd Annual Conference will also discuss a plan of structural reform aimed at achieving the maximum degree of flexibility and effectiveness in our work. This plan is based on connecting the 17 working groups that exist at the moment through 3 sub-regional centres, one for the Mashreq area (based in Cairo), one for the Maghreb area (based in Algeria) and one for the Gulf (based in Bahrain). This plan will help decentralize work, facilitate daily communication and make our campaigns more effective.

The conference will also elect a new Board of Management to replace the Founding Committee that has been running the Arab Press Freedom Watch since May 2000. The term of the new Board will be determined by the conference. The elected board itself will be responsible for drafting its scheme and working mechanism.

Each of the groups working for APFW in the Arab world will have a name, structure and a principle budget to help its work. All of these groups will be working under the leadership of APFW and within its agreed strategy and plans passed by the annual conference.

The Final Communique:

Under the general theme of the liberation of the press from the intervention of the state in the Arab world, and in pursuance of its policy of co-ordination with professional and trade union organizations across the Arab World, Arab Press Freedom Watch has convened its third annual conference, 3-6 May 2004. in Casablanca, Morocco, in collaboration and with the active participation of The Moroccan National Press Trade Union.

During ten sessions, and with the help of dozens of working papers and valuable interventions, the delegates of the APFW in 14 Arab states, together with representatives of concerned, international and regional organizations, discussed the situation of the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in the Arab countries and deliberated on the ways and means for effectively diminishing the role of the state in controlling the media and undermining its interventionist and hegemonic policies over print and audio-visual media organizations and outlets, policies that dangerously impact the independence and objectivity of the media and seriously restrict its ability to shoulder its mission in defense of the rights of society in knowledge, expression and communication.

The elaborate discussions in the conference disclosed that the state in the Arab world, is still adamantly clinging to its policies of restricting the free flow of information; maintaining its ownership of the press and the audio-visual media, defending and propagating laws and legislations to restrict the different aspects of the freedom of expression, the press, publishing, circulation, broadcasting services and TV channels. Despite the colossal and continual progress in information and communications technologies, which has effectively transcended and overstepped the multiple impediments erected by the state in the path of the freedom of expression, and the press, on the global level, the state in the Arab world is still sticking by its guns and insisting on the preservation of archaic laws that restrict the freedom of trade union organization and manipulate the conditions under which journalists are working.

The discussions have also highlighted the strong linkage between the hostile attitude of the state towards the freedom of expression and the press, and its deep rooted tendencies to resist public pressure for change and democratic reform of Arab societies in response to the wide democratization in the whole world.

In consideration of what has been said above, Arab Press Freedom Watch would like to confirm that the efforts of journalists, media people and all the defenders of the freedom of expression against the intervention of the state, represent a serious contribution to the over all liberation of the Arab world and putting it on a firm footing of democratic transformation, civil liberties, political pluralism, and social, economic and cultural development, in a bold bid to put an end to decades of marginalization of the people and the confiscation of human rights. Within that context, participants in the third conference of Arab Press Freedom Watch passed the following resolutions:

Firstly: In the Realm of Freedom of Expression and the Development of Relevant Legislation:

Arab Freedom Watch:

1- Fully supports national and public initiatives for comprehensive democratic and constitutional reform and expresses its rejection of stratagems to stymie such reform on the grounds that it is externally inspired. The organization calls on civil society organizations and groupings to intensify their efforts to urgently implement and bring to fruition all the reformatory initiatives.
2- Encourages the emergence of a wide coalition of civil society organizations, especially those directly involved in the defense of the freedom of expression, the press and other media, to exert sufficient pressure on Arab governments so as to convince them to commit

themselves to the freedom of the media and to make the legislations that would guarantee and embody that freedom.

3- Calls for a sustained effort to abolish all freedom depriving punishments in opinion and publishing cases and equally works for the abolition of exorbitant fines which seriously threaten the freedom of the press and undermine the sense of security among journalists.
4- Strongly condemns the application of more than one law in trying cases related to the freedom of expression, opinion and publication, and the trial of journalists before emergency or exceptional tribunals which do not satisfy the requirements of the due process of law.
5- Appeals to governments that still prohibit the formation of trade unions, unions or professional organizations for journalists, to abandon such practices and allow the formation of such organizations. Arab Press Freedom Watch specifically calls on the Saudi government to respect the principles of trade union freedom and independence and to endorse Saudi journalists' initiatives to form their own trade union organization.
6- Provides all appropriate moral and legal assisstance to journalists who fall victim to state repression in the course of performing their professional duties and calls on journalists all over the Arab world to declare their solidarity with their colleagues including with launching solidarity campaigns.
7- Calls for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience in the Arab world, especially those who have not enjoyed a just trial or deprived of the rights of legal defense and representation.
8- Confirms its rejection of pre-emptive detention in issues of opinion and publication and highlights the unacceptability of detaining journalists without a judicial order from a competent judicial authority and in the presence of representatives of their trades or professional unions.
9- Declares its intention of forming a committee of legal experts to review and revise press and media legislation in the Arab world, to pin-point those aspects of the laws which the committee finds to be restrictive of the freedom of expression and the press and to suggest alternative texts to be incorporated in local Arab laws in accordance with the plans of the organization.
10- Works for the recognition by Arab legislatures of the rights of access to, and the free flow of information, the adoption by them, of legal texts to punish those who withhold information and to ensure that the implementation of these laws measures up to the standards prevalent in democratic countries.
11- Exerts every effort to abolish the authorities enjoyed by the ministries of information in the Arab world in controlling the affairs of journalists and the press, including their authority to grant or deny licenses for the publication of newspapers, audio-visual media and to allow or deny the very practice the profession.
12- Intends to intensify its lobbying for private ownership of newspapers and audio-visual media and for the right to publish and run them just by notifying a judicial authority.
13- Warns that the new laws and legislations adopted by Arab countries in the context of the war against terrorism should not be used to curtail the freedom of the press and the media and recommends a comprehensive review of the legislations to make sure that they do not negatively impact either the freedom of expression and publication or the security of journalists and media people.
14- Works for dropping from Arab media legislations, the automatic criminal responsibility of the editor in chief, for everything published by his newspaper.
15- Works for the cancellation of those articles in some Arab media legislations that give Arab rulers immunity against criticism.

16- The formation of a committee to review the situation of those of Lebanese journalists who do not enjoy the membership of the Lebanese trade union, and to make a similar review of the situation of Syrian journalists to provide them with the assistance they may require.
17- Calls on doner countries to stop aid to any Arab country insisting on the suffocation of the freedom of expression and the media.
18- Works for obtaining a consultative position in UN Economic and Social Council.

Secondly: On the Protection of Journalists in Conflict Areas.

Arab Press Freedom Watch:

19- Expresses its full solidarity with the Palestinian people and its national institutions in their struggle against the repressive and criminal policies of the Israeli occupation authorities. It highly praises the heroism of Palestinian journalists and media people who resist and challenge the Israeli war machine, face the prospect of death and injury on daily basis, in their pursuance of their noble profession of disclosing the heinous violations of international law and human rights, committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories. The organization expresses its full solidarity with Palestinian journalists and all those working in the media and calls on all the relevant national, regional and international organizations to provide all the material assistance they possibly can, to support the Palestinian journalists.
20- Calls on the Palestinian Authority to investigate the frequent violations against many Palestinian journalists, to immediately expose the perpetrators, to bring them and those behind them to justice and to deal with this as an urgent priority.
21- Expresses full solidarity with the Iraqi journalists and media personnel in the face of the difficult and critical circumstances they experience under foreign occupation. The organization highly applauds the efforts of Iraqi journalists in support of the struggle of their people for the restoration of independence and full national sovereignty, and their aspirations for an independent and free press, liberated from all forms of intervention, pressure or control.
22- Stresses the importance of appropriate international procedures for the protection of Arab and foreign journalists working in conflict areas and calls for launching an international investigation, by a neutral authority, in the accusations of targeting journalists and media personnel both in Iraq and the Palestinian occupied territories and to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.
23- Seeks the assistance of the UN general secretary to enable the organization to perform its role in the protection of Arab and foreign journalists working in conflict areas, especially in Palestine, Iraq and Somalia, in accordance with the stipulations of the Geneva Conventions.
24- Calls on the respective international, regional, professional and trade union organizations to contribute to the rehabilitation of the press infra-structure in Somalia and to help Somali journalists with professional training and give them all the help they need to face their formidable task of rebuilding the Somali press.

Thirdly: On the Ethics of Practicing Journalism:

Arab Press Freedom Watch:

25- Warns of the threats of foreign infiltration and intervention in the affairs of the Arab press, either directly, or through training opportunities given to individual Arab journalists behind the backs of their unions or professional organizations.
26- Condemns the practices of some Arab regimes in bribing some Arab journalists or press institutions to buy their loyalty and use their services in the justification and whitewashing of the policies of those regimes at the expense of reality and truth. APFW calls on all

professional unions and press institutions to investigate any accusations in that respect and to bring to light their objective findings.

27- Employs all possible means to purify Arab discourse in general and press language in particular, from the tendencies of incitement and provocation and accusations of apostasy or unbelief. It strongly encourages objective dialogue, tolerance and respect for other points of view as the essence of the press mission.

28- Reaffirms the importance of carrying out the resolutions of the third conference of the organization, held in Cairo 2003, on the ethics of the profession and the formation of professional, legal committee to formulate an optional ethical charter for the Arab press.

Fourth: On Training and Professional Competence

29- The conference calls on all press institutions in the Arab world, to adopt and implement programs for training journalists and developing their skills and professional knowledge and entrusts the executive committee of the organization to make the necessary contacts with national, regional and international organizations for the implementation of these programs, in accordance with the needs of the respective countries.

30- The conference expresses its gratitude to the National Trade Union of the Moroccan Press for hosting the third conference of the organization and applauds its distinguished efforts to make the conference a success.

31- The conference expresses its gratitude for Ford Foundation (United States), The International Committee for Press Support (Denmark) and the Open Society Foundation (Hungary) for their financial support of the conference.

32- The conferees welcome the invitation of the Yemeni Journalists Trade Union to host the fourth conference of Arab Press Freedom Watch in the Yemeni capital Sana'a and entrust colleagues Ibrahim Nawar, head of the executive office of APFW, and Mahboub Ali, member of the executive office, chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Trade Union and deputy president of the Arab Journalists Union, with the supervision of the preparation for an equally successful conference next year.

Fifth: On Organization and Procedure

33- In the context of developing the internal workings of the organization and with the purpose of enhancing the principles of transparency and decentralization, the third conference of the organization has adopted with the majority of votes the draft organizational statute of APFW, after elaborate discussions and importat amendments. The president and members of the executive office have been elected in accordance with the statute as follows:

1- Ibrahim Nawar (Egypt) President
2- Ali Djerri (Algeria) Deputy President
3- Maha Al Salihi (Bahrain) Deputy President
4- Amal Abbas (Sudan) Member
5- Hassan Abdul Khaliq (Morocco) Member
6- Ragaiee El-Merghani (Egypt) Member'
7- Fa' iq Batti (Iraq) Member
8- Mahboub Ali (Yemen) Member
9- Youssef Fadel (Egypt) Member

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2. Revitalising Media Freedom Advocacy in the Arab World Casablanca, 23-25 January 2004

Recommendations and follow up

The main recommendations of the conference were as follows:

1. Training programme for leaders of media freedom NGOs on advocacy methods and techniques must be designed and supported. Advocacy training should expand to new areas of media issues such as the internet, access to information and independence of broadcasting where very limited activities have been noticed in the region.

A. The internet
• Internet regulations: As more and more Arab governments are adopting very restrictive regulations on access to the internet, it has become important for advocates to understand all issues relevant to internet access and use in general and how their governments are restricting use - and what impact these restrictions have on the media and
the public.
• Use of the internet as a tool for advocacy:

B. Access to public information
Access to information is now recognised by international law as a fundamental right. Freedom of information laws have been adopted by more than 50 countries around the world.
Many international intergovernmental organisation such as UNDP, and international and local NGOs such as Transparency International, Justice Initiative, and ARTICLE 19 are campaigning for governments to adopt new laws and regulations to guarantee to the public and the media the right of access to publicly held documentations and information. No Arab country has yet adopted a freedom of information law.
• Launching new studies on restrictions on access to information in the countries of the region, especially restrictions imposed on journalists
• Launching advocacy campaigns for governments to adopt new laws on access to information
• International NGOs which each have expertise on these issues should assist the emergence of local NGOs and train their leaders on access to information advocacy issues

C. Public Service Broadcasting and private and community broadcast
The main feature of public service broadcasting in the Arab world is that it is under state control and it functions in support of government policies and propaganda. Journalists working in the state service broadcasting are considered civil servants who are bound by civil servant regulations which limit their freedom of expression and their right to organise.
Commercial broadcasting exists only in a few countries but it is controlled by powerful financial and political interests that rarely serve the public needs.
Community broadcasting is also rare. In the countries where it exists it is aligned with religious affiliations and ethnic identity.
• Training media freedom advocates on democratic broadcasting issues
• Launching campaigns to turn state broadcasting into independent public service broadcasting
• Launching campaigns to urge governments to allow the existence of private and community owned broadcasting which should serve the public interest needs

• Launching research projects on broadcasting laws and regulations

2. Increasing the exchange of information between NGOs, local and international, working in the field. For this, a Listserv was proposed to serve as a clearing house linking all those working in the field of media advocacy, assistance and development in the region.

3. Supporting any new initiatives of individuals or groups planning to set up media freedom centres in their countries.

4. Working towards the establishment of an Arab media freedom network.

An informal group made up of four organisations was set up during the conference with the responsibility of following up on the recommendations of the conference and the coordination of future actions. The informal group of four NGOs is CMF MENA, Ammanet, CDFJ and APFW.

The tasks of the group as presented by CMF MENA are:
• To collect all the papers and recommendations made by the participants and to prepare a strategy paper for the promotion and defence of media freedom in the region. The strategy paper will define priorities, objectives and methods of work in the following areas: the print media, broadcasting, the internet, access to information, training, legal protection and safety of journalists. The group will also define a strategy of work to urge the Arab League to develop freedom of expression and information mechanisms.
• To prepare the platform for a new network of NGOs working on media freedom in the region. The group will also inform all stakeholders in the region and outside about this project and try to seek support, financial or moral for the setting up of the network. The network will be open to all existing NGOs and individual experts.
• The platform will be circulated among the participants in order to get critiques, commentaries etc.

In May 2004, the group of four met with the Media Programme of the Soros Foundation and the International Media Assistance (Denmark) and a number of international NGOs, to discuss the follow up of the Casablanca Conference. The project of setting up the network was shelved because of disagreement between the members of the working group. Some NGOs refused to get involved in any network on the grounds that they are building their own network. At the end a consensus was attained and each organisation proposed to set up a regional working group on one of the four priority areas that were identified and assessed during the meeting.

In the end the division was as follows:
i. APFW would work on monitoring and reporting media censorship.
ii. CDFJ would work on training and legal assistance to journalists.
iii. Ammanet would work on assistance to independent and new media
iv. CMF MENA would set up a working group made up of local and international NGOs on media law reform in four areas: the print press, broadcasting, the internet and access to information.

3. The Role of the Media in the Arab World
Considerations and Recommendations
27 May 2004

Workshop Meeting on Freedom of Expression Organised by International Dialogues Foundation in cooperation with IKV, Pax Christi and Communication For Development.

First Session: Legislation and Practice

Considerations :

- The basic notion that one needs to keep in mind is that freedoms of speech and expression are basic and fundamental human rights that should be supported by all and upheld in every country.
- Arab countries are notorious for having codes and laws that effectively restrict these freedoms, which has a detrimental effect on the role that journalists can play in addressing issued of socio-economic and political reforms in their countries.
- Living in a climate of fear, many Arab journalists have for long tended to censor themselves in their coverage of certain issues. As such, they are not always capable of pushing the limits of existing practice and clamouring for more freedom.

Recommendations:

Cooperation between Arab and European journalists and media is now needed more than ever before in order to protect freedom of expression in both Arab and, in some cases, European countries.

Cooperation between journalists and parliamentarians in Arab countries should be encouraged in order to facilitate the drafting of new more liberal press laws.

In this regard, paths for communications and interactions between Arab and European journalists and parliamentarians should be developed and supported.

Paths for the exchange of information between Arab and European countries should be identified and promoted.

More specifically, an Arab-European working group on media development should be created and should include legal and media experts, parliamentarians, journalists and human rights activists. The group will advise law-makers on the drafting of more liberal media laws, and could provide certain guidelines on professional ethics in the media.

Second Session: Education and Training of Journalists

Considerations:

Most academic institutions in the Arab World dedicated to the training of journalists are government controlled and, therefore, ill-suited for preparing journalists for the task of playing a more constructive role in the process of democratisation and reform in their countries.

Arab journalists, be they independent or state-employees, work in a social and political environment that that is often hostile to free expression. Nonetheless, many journalists, and media outlets, are willing to push the existing limits and break through the various barriers, and should be supported in these endeavours.

Recommendations:

- Developing a comprehensive training-strategy to support and empower independent journalists in the Arab World.
- Support programs that provide professional, technical (including use of new media technology, such as the internet), and subject-specific (such as human rights and gender and legal issues) training, within the context of fostering more democratic values.
- Organising exchange programs involving students, teachers and young journalists between local and independent institutions and media organisations in a way that can enable all sides to develop between mutual understanding and cultural sensitivity.
- Supporting local capacity-building and journalism.

Third Session: Interrelationship between Democracy, Media and Censorship

Considerations :

- Censorship in the Arab World has increased and is considered the most pervasive problem.
- Since the 60s/70s Arab media have become increasingly state-owned, but, the last few years have witnessed the birth of new and independent medial outlet, albeit on a small-scale.
- Freedom and independence of media are essential components of the democratization process.
- Promoting free and independent media is intimately connected with the need to diminish state controls.

Recommendations:

- On the state-level: devise implementation strategies and monitoring mechanisms with regard to Article 2 of the Association Agreement.
- On the grassroots level:

A- Support and strengthen local and regional initiatives that promote freedom of expression, in particular those that monitor relevant violations, censorship, and performance, and/or those that provide legal support and advice.

B- Support initiatives that provide training for local journalists as they cover local elections and national and regional conflicts.

Fourth Session: Access to Information

Considerations:

- Access to information is a basic right that many people in the Arab World often fail to consider due to draconian governmental controls in this regard.
- Limiting access to information has been one of the main instruments of controls used by Arab governments to exercise their authority and divert attention from their miserable performance in many key sectors. Attempting to facilitate access to information should, therefore, be seen as part and parcel of the ongoing reform and democratization efforts in the region.
- National Arab states have always had major problems dealing with the various ethnic, linguistic, religious and sectarian groups living in their midst, leading to a situation where

many of these groups are marginalized both with regard to their involvement in the socio-economic activities in the country and in the centralized decision-making process.

- In some countries, minority groups have usurped the reigns of power in order to safeguard their rights, creating in the process a state of continuous tensions between majority and minority groups and stifling the possibility of opening up the political system.

Recommendations:

- Assisting local independent media, NGOs, press unions and human rights groups to campaign for the adoption by governments of more liberal laws that guarantee the right of access to information.
- Encouraging greater participation by civil society in activities that facilitate access to information by fostering the establishment of NGO and networks specialised in this field, especially access to health information, education, justice, gender issues, minorities, and marginalised groups.
- Supporting ongoing local and regional initiatives dedicated to the promotion of minority rights in the region and dialogue between minority and majority groups, within the context of current efforts of democratisation and inclusion.
- Providing various economic and investment packages specifically-tailored to help marginalised minority groups getting more integrated in the socio-economic life of the countries they inhabit, thus offsetting previous policies of exclusion and marginalization.

Special Session: Dutch Presidency of the EU

Recommendations :

- Engagement for a better political functioning of the clauses on democracy and human rights in the Barcelona Declaration and article 2 of the Association Accords between European and Mediterranean countries. A conditionality has to be worked out in a positive way, that is, more and better, trade - , economic, political and cultural, scientific relations with countries to the degree they respect and human rights. A time frame is needed in this process.
- Support for direct inter civil society contacts in the Euro-Arab region, not to be conditioned by the state of the intergovernmental relations.
- Within the context of a coherent EU media development policy free flow of information should be guaranteed between European Union and the Arab world and between all participating countries, in the framework of Barcelona Process and other relevant forums.
- Creation of satellite communication and internet projects in the Euro-Arab area with information dialogue and debates on major topics. Special attention to be paid to build an independent media structure in future Iraq.
- Support for ideas and projects mentioned above and agreed upon during our conference.

http://www.apfw.org/indexenglish.asp?fname=report%5Cenglish%5Cspe1012.htm

4. Arab Press Freedom Watch second Annual Conference
"Ethics in Journalism:
Towards a Free and Responsible Media"
Cairo 5 - 7 May 2003

Introduction :

The war in Iraq has opened up a serious debate about professional and moral ethics that should guide journalists in their work. In some cases the principle of freedom of expression was in doubt. Basic rights like free access to information and freedom of reporting events as they happened were distorted. The so-called imbedded journalists who were reporting the war from one side only have presented the media with a very serious question about the role of the press. During the war some journalists were blamed of not being patriotic. Some others were patriotic to the extent that they lost their objectivity. But in the middle of all of that there were those who were loyal to the truth to the extent that they lost their lives, trying to report it. Ethics in journalism is high on the agenda.
During 2002 APFW's annual conference (1-3 May 2002) delegates affirmed the need for rules and guidelines that should be set out by journalists themselves to ensure that objective reporting, moral values, higher professional standards and respect of differences of opinion are deeply rooted and respected in all Arab media institutions. The final communiqué of the conference called upon journalists "to agree, without any intervention or pressure, from anyone or any authority, on a professional code of ethics which outlines ethical mores and standards of quality in journalism, to be adhered to by those working within journalism."
Although some Arab countries have semi-self regulatory bodies such as the Higher Press Council in Egypt and Jordan, it is widely believed that such bodies are under the influence of governments. Media watchdog organizations such as the Press Complaint Commission in the UK and the ITC, which monitor the work of publications and broadcasting, do not exist in the Arab world. A free and independent media should exercise a considerable degree of responsibility. Journalists should be educated to know the fine line between privacy and public interest. Experts from Europe and USA can deliver lessons and knowledge about these issues.

Final Communiqué :

In cooperation with the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate and the International Federation of Journalists (Brussels) the Arab Press Freedom Watch (London) held a workshop on "Ethics in Journalism: Towards a Free and Responsible Media" at the headquarters of the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate in Cairo (5-7 May 2003). More than 70 Arab and international journalists and media experts participated.

6 sessions were held and discussed the following topics:
1- Basics of Press Freedom
2- Responsible Press
3- Morals and Ethics
4- The Ethical and Professional Role of Journalists' Syndicates
5- Media and War
6- Rebuilding the Iraqi Press

In each session speakers delivered papers on the topic. This was followed by detailed discussion. The main finding that was agreed by participants was that lack of freedom and democracy is responsible for the continued deterioration in all aspects of life in the Arab World. Participants agreed that this lack of democracy is the reason behind citizens having lost their freedom and the Arab countries having lost their will and ability to protect the interests of their people.
The participants have agreed the following principles and recommendations:

First: Press Freedom

1- To emphasise that the basics of press freedom are free access to information and the right to own, publish, print and distribute newspapers and publications without being under any form of control or censorship.
2- To demand the abolition of all restrictions on freedom of the press and journalists' work, including the cancellation of all laws and regulations which allow state interference in press affairs and the imprisonment of journalists.
3- To condemn sacking journalists for reasons related to practicing their job or expressing their opinion, and to call for the separation between ownership and management in the private and political parties' newspapers.
4- To confirm the right of journalists to establish their own syndicates on an independent and democratic basis. And to call for the abolition of all the existing laws restricting this right or criminalising the practicing of it.
5- To call upon Arab journalists in countries where professional independent syndicates or organisations do not exist, to take the initiative to establish their own independent syndicates in order to represent and defend their interests and rights.

Second: Journalists' Responsibilities and Professional Ethics

1- To unveil the hidden objectives behind governmental standards imposed by the authorities to measure the responsibility of the Arab press. To emphasise that the responsibility of journalists should stem from the basis of a self-imposed code of ethics and that journalist themselves, through their independent syndicates should discipline those who violate this code of ethics.
2- To reject sensational journalism and to condemn all forms of publishing based on blackmailing and violation of the privacy of private persons, and to penalise these practices.
3- To warn of the danger of mixing editorial and commercial materials, as this results in an assault on the readers' right to know and is a clear violation of professional standards and to condemn the work of journalists in marketing and advertising.
4- To condemn the practices violating ethics and professional standards committed by editors and owners of Arab newspapers and to condemn their encouragement of some journalists to violate ethics and professional standards.
5- To affirm that journalists should respect their conscience when they work and avoid exploiting their position to obtain personal privileges or grants from national or foreign sources directly or indirectly.

Third: Syndicates and Code of Ethics

1- To confirm the need of the Arab journalists represented by their syndicates or professional organisations to have a code of ethics created by themselves and based on loyalty to the truth, to the right of people to know and professional standards, and to agree to have a self-disciplinary mechanism in place.

2- To call on the Arab syndicates and organisations to take responsibility for monitoring violations of freedom of the press in Arab countries, and to encourage independent initiatives to establish a network to monitor and exchange data on press freedom.
3- To call for strengthening all possible forms of cooperation at all levels between the existing independent professional syndicates and newly established ones and to support them with experience and facilities on a free and democratic basis.
4- To call upon the Arab syndicates and unions to give priority to improving the deteriorating living conditions of a large number of Arab journalists, and to setting up suitable programmes to increase their income to protect them from becoming a target for bribery and exploitation.
5- To urge the Arab syndicates and unions to adopt training programmes in the topics of media laws (national and international) and the use of new communication technology.
6- To consider as an urgent matter the responsibility of all Arab journalists to support the rebuilding of the Palestinian media institutions, and to support the struggle of the Palestinian journalists, and to appeal to the Arab syndicates, unions and societies to launch a campaign to help them financially and technically.

Fourth: Protecting Journalists During War

1- To cooperate with all regional and international institutions to work for an international agreement to protect journalists working in a conflict zone or during a time of war.
2- To cooperate with the Arab and international journalists and human rights organisations to bring legal cases in the international criminal court against those who commit or have committed war crimes against journalists anywhere in the world but especially in Palestine and Iraq, and to confirm that these crimes should not lapse or be forgiven.
3- To work to establish an international media alliance to confront crimes and violations of human rights in Palestine but especially attacks, terrorisation and the killing of journalists, Palestinian and foreign correspondents alike and also attacks on media institutions in Palestine that are aimed at preventing them covering the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces in Palestine.
4- To support the International Federation of Journalists' efforts to establish an International News Safety Institute to protect the lives of journalists and maintain their safety.

Fifth: Rebuilding the Iraqi Press

1- Participants expressed their deep concern at the uncertain future of the Iraqi media especially after the near total destruction of its institutions. In that context they welcomed the Rabat Declaration issued jointly by the Arab Journalists' union and the International Federation of Journalists in calling for an investigation about the state of the media in Iraq. Participants also welcomed the Arab Press Freedom Watch plan to send a fact-finding mission to Iraq to assess the human, material and professional losses in the Iraqi media institutions and to monitor their future progress.
2- The participants expressed their solidarity with their fellow Iraqi journalists and confirmed the necessity to secure the safety of all journalists, and demand that they should not be harassed or prosecuted for political reasons.
3- To support the Iraqi journalists in their struggle to urgently end the military administration and demand the urgent establishment of an Iraqi government elected on a democratic basis and to provide appropriate conditions for freedom of the press in Iraq to enable all Iraqi journalists to practise their profession on a free and independent basis all over the country.

4- To work to rebuild the Iraqi media institutions and to train their employees using the capabilities of the Arab Journalists' Union, the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate, the International Federation of Journalists and all the international freedom of the press and communication and human rights organisations. Calling on the Iraqi Press to play its role to ensure the future of a free, democratic and united Iraq.
5- To urge Iraqi journalists in exile to return to their country and join their colleagues in rebuilding the Iraqi media on a free and democratic basis.
6- To call upon Iraqi journalists to work for the re-establishment of their professional syndicate, independent of any local or foreign control.
7- The participants expressed their thanks to the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate for hosting the workshop and securing its success, and expressed their hope to continue a close and permanent cooperation between the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate (EJS), the Arab Press Freedom Watch (APFW), and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), to promote freedom of expression, ethics in journalism and higher professional standards.

http://www.apfw.org/indexenglish.asp?fname=annualconference/2003/english/finalCommunique2003.htm

5. Arab Press Freedom Watch First Annual Conference
"Media for Democracy:
Political and Legal Challenges in the Arab World"
London, 1 – 3 May 2002

Final Communiqué :

Arab Press Freedom Watch (APFW) held its first annual conference in London, to discuss "Arab Media for Democracy: Political and Legal Challenges" on 1-3 May 2002. Leading journalists, lawyers, academics, diplomats and other press freedom activists addressed the conference. The conference was also widely attended by observers from the Arab league, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the National Union of Journalists in the UK (NUJ), the Arab Commission for Human Rights, the National Tunisian Council for Liberties, Reporters Sans Frontiers and Al Jazeera satellite TV.

Prominent press freedom activists from 13 Arab states including; Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco presented papers to the conference.

The conference, which was the first meeting of its kind in the Arab world, aimed to share ideas with the objective of formulating an action plan to be implemented by APFW and the conference participants.

On the whole the discussions and various papers presented pointed to the perilous condition of journalism in the Arab world, due to the various arbitrary restrictions placed upon it, as well as the dismal situation of Arab journalists and the restrictions they face in undertaking their work.

The Conference Agreed on the Following:

Political Issues and Press Freedom :

The APFW conference affirms that the profession of journalism in the Arab world should be freed from all forms of legal, political, and economic restrictions, so that journalists are able to work unfettered. Also to reinforce the role of journalists in serving and transforming society, and bringing about political change and reinforcing political freedoms, pluralism and the respect of others' ideas and beliefs. Linked to this is the need for journalists to work towards fighting corruption and political monopoly, control by the one party system or dictatorial or tribal regimes. This falls within their role as a vehicle of transparent communication of the various events and the opinions within society.

Condemnation of all Israeli attacks against the Palestinian press, journalists, and media institutions, as well as those against Arab and foreign correspondents in the West Bank and Gaza.

Participants note with deep concern that Israeli transgressions against press freedom in the Occupied Palestinian territories is part and parcel of a wider genocide that Israel is exercising against the Palestinian people. Moreover, the APFW conference notes that these transgressions have drawn increasing international concern, especially within international press circles. Nevertheless, this concern falls short of an action plan to protect journalists, or to end Israeli aggressions, or to penalise those responsible for such action.

Participants underline the importance of working towards an international agreement for the protection of journalists working in war zones, and areas experiencing sectarian, tribal, and ethnic violence. Participants applaud the steadfastness of Palestinian journalists in the

face of occupation, and call upon the world community to assist them in rebuilding Palestinian media institutions, as well as radio and television stations destroyed by Israel.

Participants affirm the importance of bringing our Palestinian brethren living within Israel's 1948 borders into the fold. Participants also urge Arab journalists to increase their awareness of the latter's identity and to integrate them within the regional activities of Arab institutions.

The APFW conference underlines the importance of organising a program in support of Palestinian journalists, with the participation of Arab journalists working in the Arab world and abroad, and international organisations such as the IFJ. Thereby emphasising the strength of professional ties between Arab journalists and their Palestinian brethren.

The conference appeals to Arab press unions and professional organisations to proclaim solidarity pacts with the Palestinian Journalists' Union, and to provide the necessary assistance that will enable Palestinian journalists to carry out their role in resisting occupation. Participants also call upon Arab press institutions to beware of terms and phrases used by the Hebrew media and in the Western press against the Palestinian struggle with the aim of distorting the legal and just dimensions of the resistance.

The conference calls upon all journalist and Arab media bodies to lend support to the international effort, led by APFW, to document Israeli war crimes in Palestine.

Marking the international Press Freedom Day on May 3rd, participants commend all the writers and journalists from all over the world, who played a role in exposing the war crimes of the Israeli military led by Ariel Sharon and the war of annihilation against the Palestinians.

The conference condemns Israel's war of terror against these writers and journalists and its attempts to taint them with accusations of anti-Semitism.

The conference considers that the news blackout imposed by the Israeli authorities during or after the occupation of towns and cities, is integral to the wider war of annihilation against the Palestinians.

<u>On Democracy and Press Legislation :</u>

- Participants at the APFW first annual conference assert the inherent link between democracy and press freedom. There can be no democracy without press freedom. Furthermore, the call for press freedom and the aim of achieving it is linked to the right of citizens to have a free media, and the right to express their opinions without fear.
- In this regard, participants at the conference call upon journalists and lawyers' unions, and organisations committed to press freedom, as well as democratic political leadership to work together to abolish emergency laws, emergency courts and state security courts, and to lift imposed restrictions on public freedom.
- Participants at the conference note that events of September 11th have increased the tendency towards policies which are less tolerant of press freedom, even in liberal Western countries. The APFW conference also cautions against widening the confines of these policies, and calls for understanding and dialogue between people of different political shades and persuasion. The conference further warns against the danger of deteriorating political rights in most Arab countries. This is especially true where regimes have recently instigated serious sentences in cases of expression of opinion, or have imposed unacceptable restrictions on the media including print, radio, television, and the Internet.

The Conference Calls for the Following Action Plan:

1- Freeing Arab media legislation from all restrictions, which impede press freedom in any form, regardless of whether it is the expression of an opinion, publishing, ownership, printing, issuing or distribution of material.
2- Abolishing legal and administrative penalties which allow executive authorities to impose censorship on print, radio or television media. The conference also calls for the abolition of laws and articles permitting the shutdown or appropriation of media institutions.
3- Removing all laws permitting punitive measures, which impinge on a journalist's freedom, in publishing offences pertaining to the exercise of their profession.
4- Availing legal, and political assurances for the practice of journalism, and aiming to promote the media profession by organising work relations within media institutions, and relations between press and society.
5- This necessarily means that journalists should avoid the negative impact of self-censorship in their professional conduct. Journalists should also distance themselves from behaviour deemed unethical by the profession, as well as avoid falling into unlawful temptations exercised by interest groups.

Legal and Professional Standards:

1- The APFW conference calls upon journalists to agree, without any intervention or pressure, from anyone or any authority, on a professional code of ethics which outlines ethical mores and standards of quality in journalism, to be adhered to by those working within journalism.
2- Ensuring transparency in the work of Arab unions, and urging these journalists' unions to affirm the principle of voluntary membership and restricting membership from those outside the profession. The conference also calls upon unions to respect the principle of division of interest for those working within journalism, and to separate the undertaking of union work and assuming high editorial and administrative responsibilities within media institutions.
3- Assigning APFW to design a system for evaluating journalistic performance in the Arab world through the application of a set of comprehensive criteria for measuring standards and comparisons. Such criteria would include moral indicators, as well as indicators of relations between media and society, and media and the governing authority, the degree of respect of freedom of the press, and the percentage of diffusion of media products and goods. These indicators would be used to determine the magnitude to which the various indicators figure in one country.
4- Informing journalists of their legal rights, and their duties and informing the public about the dangers of legal strictures which restrict freedom. Also the formation of an alliance with public organisations and institutions in Arab countries in order to promote the culture of democratic freedom and journalistic pluralism.
5- Establishing an Arab network for an early warning system, in the case of an arrest or any violation of freedom of expression rights. Such a system would involve correspondents in all Arab countries. APFW would act as the central link in this network through its Internet site and its various branches, as well as through its collaboration with organisations dealing with issues of press freedom.

Violations of Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression

- Participants condemn actions undertaken by authorities or press institutions dismissing journalists or penalising them due to their social, cultural or political predilections.

- In this respect, the APFW conference calls upon the Saudi authorities to reinstate the dismissed journalist Mohamed Mukhtar al-Fal, editor-in-chief of "Al Madina" newspaper to his former position. The conference also calls upon the Saudi authorities to investigate the emotional and physical damage inflicted upon the poet Abdel Muhsin Bin Heleet, the author of a poem published in the aforementioned paper, which led to the dismissal of the journalist Mohamed al-Fal from "Al Madina" and the arrest and detention of Bin Heleet for several weeks.
- Participants to the first APFW conference also raise their objections to the mistreatment of Mohamed Ayouanoughan, correspondent for the Algerian paper "Al Khabar" in Tunis. Ayouanoughan was arrested by Tunisian police and was physically assaulted before seeking assistance from the Algerian embassy to leave the country. The conference have sent a letter to the Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, requesting that he demands an investigation into this incident, and other similar incidents, and to penalise those responsible for such acts. That is to avoid the repetition of such violations against journalists in Tunisia.
- The participants also demand the release of Hamma Al Hammami, and to lift the measures of restriction and harassment against Siham Bensedrine, and Jalal Al Zoughlami.
- APFW calls upon all Arab rulers to release detainees and prisoners of conscience and in this regard calls upon the Jordanian authorities to release Mrs Toujan Al Faisal.
- The conference also calls upon the Bahraini authorities to revoke the severe restrictive measures brought against the Bahraini journalist Maha Al Salehi by the Ministry of Information.
- The APFW conference also calls upon the Syrian authorities to release the two members of parliament, Mohammed Ma'amoun Al Homsy and Riyadh Seif. As well as the release of ten detainees representative of civil society, who were arrested for their support of freedom of expression.
- APFW calls upon the Iraqi authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Aziz al-Sayed Jasim.
- APFW notes that in Morocco the draft for the press legislation, recently approved by the parliament, was drawn up by the government, without consultations with the national Moroccan Journalists' Syndicate. This legislation contains various negative directives which restrict freedom of expression, and the press. The organisation calls for the review of this draft law and the inclusion of crucial amendments which would make it meet the expectations of journalists and civil liberties organisations in Morocco.
- APFW would like to bring to the attention of the British government, that it was the mandate authority in Palestine at the time of its forceful takeover by the National Jewish Congress. Furthermore, it was Britain which had at that time formulated restrictive press laws with the aim of silencing journalists in the Occupied territories. The Israeli government is now using these same British laws, to silence the voice of Palestinian journalists, while exempting its use on the Hebrew press. APFW urges Britain to apply maximum pressure on the Israeli government to stop it using these laws for reinforcing its fascist occupation of Palestinian territories. And, that it should stop the legal discriminative measures against the Arab press and apply the same laws to all the press in Israel.

http://www.apfw.org/indexenglish.asp?fname=annualconference/2002/english/finalCommunique2002.htm

Part 3: Declarations on Promoting Pluralistic and Independent Press

1. Declaration of Sofia
13 September 1997

Resolution 35 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-ninth session - November 1997

We, the participants in European Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media (with special focus on Central and Eastern Europe), organized in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 10 to 13 September 1997 by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that *"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, and regardless of frontiers";*

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, which states that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly Resolution 45/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity;

Recalling Resolution 104 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its twenty-fifth session in 1989, focusing on the promotion of *"the free flow of ideas by word and image at international as well as national levels";*

Recalling also resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session (1991) *"recognizing that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society",* and inviting the Director-General *"to extend to other regions of the world the action ... to encourage press freedom and to promote the independence and pluralism of the media";*

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly decision of 20 December 1993 to declare 3 May World Press Freedom Day.

Noting with satisfaction resolution 4.6 of the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO (1995), which stressed *"the outstanding importance of", and endorsed,* the Declarations adopted by the participants of the Seminars, held in Windhoek, Namibia (1991), in Almaty, Kazakstan (1992), and in Santiago, Chile (1994), and referring to 150 EX/Decisions 3.1 by which the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 150 session (1996) recommended to the General Conference to *endorse* the Sana'a Declaration (Yemen, 1996);

Noting with appreciation the statement made at the opening of the Seminar by the Vice Prime-Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the messages from the Secretary General of the United Nations and by the Director-General of UNESCO, who emphasized that freedom of expression is the basic pillar of democracy that is particularly fragile in all transitional countries. The conditions in which the media operate, in this transition period, are extremely challenging;

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the United Nations and UNESCO for organizing the Seminar;

Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, agencies and foundations which contributed to the United Nations/UNESCO effort to organize the Seminar;

Expressing our gratitude to the Government, people, and media organisations and professionals of the Republic of Bulgaria for their kind hospitality which facilitated the success of the Seminar;

We reiterate that the establishment, maintenance and fostering of independent, pluralistic and free media is essential to the development and preservation of democracy;

We re-emphasize that twin functions of the press are to impart information and ideas on matters of public interest and to act as watch-dog of government;

We express our commitment to the principles of the Declaration of Windhoek, acknowledging its crucial importance for promoting free, independent and pluralistic print and electronic media, including Internet and interactive communications, in all regions of the world; we urge all parties concerned that the principles enshrined in this Declaration be applied in practice;

We support the world-wide movement towards democracy and freedom of expression and information which is a fundamental prerequisite for the fulfillment of human aspirations. To ignore these principles could undermine the development of civil society and even lead to the re-emergence of totalitarianism;

We consider all forms of censorship, whether direct or indirect, unacceptable; ***We emphasize*** that media practitioners continue to be victims of harassment, physical assault, threats, arrest, detention, torture, abduction, exile and murder. They are also subject to economic and political pressures, including politically motivated dismissal, misuse of existing laws and further restrictions under new laws. In addition to limitations on the free flow of news and information, and on the circulation of periodicals within countries and across national borders, the media are also often subject to restrictions in the use of newsprint, transmitter systems, Internet, interactive and other means of communication. Licensing systems, abusive and arbitrary controls and also excessive tariffs limit access to the media and the right to publish, transmit or broadcast information;

We strongly deplore that nearly all assassinations and other crimes against journalists and other media professionals in Europe as in other parts of the world go unpunished;

We urge intergovernmental organizations, both within the UN system and at the regional level, to coordinate their action to obtain from States concerned the relevant information on the results of their investigations and the legal measures they have taken on the assassinations and other crimes against journalists and other media professionals;

We urge Governments to free immediately those journalists who have been jailed for their professional activities;

We further deplore restrictions on travel and passport withdrawals or visa denials. There should be no discrimination between foreign and local journalists. Journalists should be free to work in the country of their choice and for any media, local or foreign;

Being of the opinion that freedom of expression, including press freedom and access to information, is a fundamental human right,

we invite the General Assembly of the United Nations, at its next session, to decide on measures to reinforce practical application of and to make binding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Article 19. Such a decision would represent an important contribution to the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We invite all intergovernmental organizations concerned and donor agencies to make a special effort to provide increased assistance in establishing and strengthening independent and pluralist media in all regions of the world.

We Declare that:

1. The welcome changes that an increasing number of Central and Eastern European States are now undergoing towards democracy provide the climate in which independent and pluralistic media can emerge and develop.
2. All States should provide, or reinforce where they exist, constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of expression and of press freedom and should review, revise and/or repeal those laws, regulations and measures that limit the exercise of this fundamental right. They should pay special attention to ensuring the respect of these guarantees. Tendencies to draw limits or taboos outside the purview of the law restrict these freedoms and are unacceptable.
3. All countries should be encouraged to facilitate travel and granting of visas to foreign journalists wishing to travel, move and work within their borders; there should be no obstacle to bringing in and use of professional equipment .
4. Free access to information from public authorities must be granted. No journalist should be forced to reveal sources of information. Adequate guarantees must be established.
5. Truly independent, representative associations, syndicates or trade unions of journalists, and associations of editors and publishers should be established and/or reinforced. Any legal and administrative obstacles to the establishment of independent journalists' organizations should be removed.
6. Sound journalistic practices are the most effective safeguard against governmental restrictions and pressures by special interest groups. Any attempts to draw up standards and guidelines should come from journalists themselves. Disputes involving the media and/or the media professionals in the exercise of their profession are a matter for the courts to decide, and such cases should be tried under civil and not criminal (or military) codes and procedures.
7. In all media the professional independence and journalistic and editorial freedom should be recognized. State-owned broadcasting and news agencies should be, as a matter of priority, reformed and granted statutes of journalistic and editorial independence as open public service institutions. If supervisory regulatory broadcasting authorities are established, they must be fully independent of government. Creation of independent news agencies as well as private and/or community owned broadcasting media, including in rural areas, should also be encouraged.
8. Special efforts should be made, to support the creation of in-country journalism educational and training structures, in order to ensure the development of independent journalism and free media.
9. Taking into account the economic and social conditions which prevail in Central and Eastern European countries, including discrepancies within this sub-region, the international community (international organizations, development agencies and professional associations) should as a matter of priority agree long term sustainable funding support directed towards the development of all independent media. In addition, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies concerned should work together to establish an independent Media Loan Fund.
10. The advent of new information and communication technologies representing new channels for the free flow of information could and should contribute to pluralism, economic and social development, democracy and peace. The access to and the use of these new media should be afforded the same freedom of expression protections as traditional media.
11. Xenophobia and clashes between different ethnic and religious groups threaten peace and democracy in many parts of Europe. Training programmes on journalistic ethics should sensitize journalists to prejudices and discrimination. It is also necessary to develop better recruitment policies within media which encourage journalists and journalism from ethnic and minority communities.

12. Non-partisan factual reporting and the highest professional standards are of crucial importance when in, and covering conflict zones.
13. Effective measures and legislation should be enacted to include prevention of excessive concentration of media ownership, including that by the state, and any controls that reduce pluralism.
14. Public interest is determined without regard to forms of ownership. Ownership and financing of all media should be transparent and publicly declared. States must encourage diversity in forms of ownership by means of legal guarantees and by the allocation of public funds on a non-discriminatory basis.
15. With the increasing commercial and other pressures on all media it is essential to maintain the credibility of the media, by striving for quality of content.
16. This Declaration should be presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly, and by the Director-General of UNESCO to the General Conference, for follow-up and implementation.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy/sofia_de.htm

2. Declaration of Sana'a
11 January 1996

Resolution 34 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-ninth session - November 1997

We, the participants in the United Nations/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media, held in Sana'a, Yemen, from 7 to 11 January 1996;

Bearing in mind Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, and regardless of frontiers";

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, which states that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly Resolution 45/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity;

Recalling Resolution 104 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its twenty-fifth session in 1989, focusing on the promotion of "the free flow of ideas by word and image at international as well as national levels";

Recalling also resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session "recognizing that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society", and inviting the Director-General "to extend to other regions of the world the action ... to encourage press freedom and to promote the independence and pluralism of the media";

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly decision of 20 December 1993 on the observance of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May;

Noting with satisfaction resolution 4.6 of the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO (1995), which stressed "the outstanding importance of", and endorsed, the Declarations adopted by the participants of the Seminars, held in Windhoek, Namibia (29 April - 3 May 1991), in Almaty, Kazakstan (5 - 9 October 1992), and in Santiago, Chile (2 - 6 May 1994), and which expressed its conviction that "the joint UNESCO/United Nations... regional Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media to be held in Sana'a, Yemen in early 1996 will contribute to creating conditions that will enable pluralistic media to develop and participate effectively in the democratization and development processes in the Arab region;"

Stressing the growing role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO, whose Intergovernmental Council decided, at its February 1992 session, to give priority to projects which seek to reinforce independent and pluralistic media;

Noting the vital need and the importance of access by women to free expression and decision-making in the field of media;

Noting with appreciation the statements made at the opening of the Seminar by the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Public Information on behalf of the Secretary General and the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO on behalf of the Director-General;

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the United Nations and UNESCO for organizing the Seminar;

Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies, organizations, agencies and foundations which contributed to the United Nations/UNESCO effort to organize the Seminar;

Expressing our gratitude to the Government, people, and media organisations and professionals of the Republic of Yemen for their kind hospitality which facilitated the success of the Seminar.

Fully support and express our commitment to the principles of the Declaration of Windhoek, acknowledging its crucial importance for promoting free, independent and pluralistic print and broadcast media in all regions of the world and seek practical application of the principles enshrined in this Declaration;

Welcome the world-wide trend towards democracy, freedom of expression and press freedom, recognize efforts by a number of Arab countries in this direction and urge all Arab states to participate in this historic process;

Believe that the advent of new information and communication technologies contributes to genuine cooperation, development, democracy and peace; acknowledge, however, that these technologies can be used to manipulate public opinion; and note that some governments do exploit the perceived threat of such technologies to justify curtailing of press freedom;

Deplore that, in the Arab World, journalists, publishers and other media practitioners continue to be victims of harassment, physical assault, threats, arrest, detention, torture, abduction, exile and murder. They are also subject to economic and political pressures, including dismissal, censorship, curbs on travel as well as passport withdrawals or visa denials. In addition to limitations on the free flow of news and information, and on the circulation of periodicals within countries and across national borders, the media is also subject to restrictions in the use of newsprint and other professional equipment and material. Licensing systems and abusive controls limit the opportunity to publish or broadcast;

Believe that arrest and detention of journalists because of their professional activities are a grave violation of human rights and urge Arab governments that have jailed journalists for these reasons to release them immediately and unconditionally. Journalists who have had to leave their countries should be free to return and to resume their professional activities. Those who have been dismissed abusively should be allowed to regain their positions.

Declare that:

Arab States should provide, and reinforce where they exist, constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of expression and of press freedom and should abolish those laws and measures that limit the freedom of the press; government tendencies to draw limits/ “red lines” outside the purview of the law restrict these freedoms and are unacceptable;

The establishment of truly independent, representative associations, syndicates or trade unions of journalists, and associations of editors and publishers, is a matter of priority in those Arab countries where such bodies do not now exist. Any legal and administrative obstacles to the establishment of independent journalists' organizations should be removed. Where necessary, labour relations laws should be elaborated in accordance with international standards;

Sound journalistic practices are the most effective safeguard against governmental restrictions and pressures by special interest groups. Guidelines for journalistic standards are the concern of the news media professionals. Any attempt to set down standards and guidelines should come from the journalists themselves. Disputes involving the media and/or the media professionals in the exercise of their profession are a matter for the courts to decide, and such cases should be tried under civil and not criminal codes and procedures;

Journalists should be encouraged to create independent media enterprises owned, run and funded by the journalists themselves and supported, if necessary, by transparent endowments with guarantees that funders do not intervene in editorial policies;

International assistance in Arab countries should aim to develop print and electronic media, independent of governments in order to encourage pluralism as well as editorial independence. Public media should be supported and funded only when they are editorially

independent and where a constitutional, effective freedom of information and expression and the independence of the press are guaranteed;

State-owned broadcasting and news agencies should be granted statutes of journalistic and editorial independence as open public service institutions. Creation of independent news agencies and private and/or community ownership of broadcasting media including in rural areas should also be encouraged;

Arab governments should cooperate with the United Nations and UNESCO, other governmental and non-governmental development agencies, organizations and professional associations, in order to:

(i) enact and/or revise laws with a view to: enforcing the rights to freedom of expression and press freedom and legally enforceable free access to information; eliminating monopoly controls over news and advertising; putting an end to all forms of social, economic or political discrimination in broadcasting, in the allocation of frequencies, in printing, in newspaper and magazine distribution and in newsprint production and allocation; abolishing all barriers to launching new publications and any form of discriminatory taxation;

(ii) initiate action to remove economic barriers to the establishment and operation of news media outlets, including restrictive import duties, tariffs and quotas for such things as newsprint, printing equipment, typesetting and word processing machinery and telecommunication equipment, and taxes on the sale of newspapers or other restrictions on the public's access to news media;

(iii) improve and expand training of journalists and managers, and other media practitioners, without discrimination, with a view to upgrading their professional standards, also by the establishment of new training centers in the countries where there are none, including Yemen.

Seek the assistance of national, regional and international press freedom and media professional organizations and other relevant NGOs to establish national and regional networks aimed at monitoring and acting against violations of free expression, to create data banks and to provide advice and technical assistance in computerisation as well as in new information and communication technologies with the understanding that UNDP, IPDC and other development partners would consider these needs to be a major priority;

Request UNESCO National Commissions of the Arab States to help in organizing national and regional meetings to enhance press freedom and to encourage creation of independent media institutions.

The international community should contribute to the achievement and implementation of this Declaration.

This Declaration should be presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly, and by the Director-General of UNESCO to the General Conference, for follow-up and implementation.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy/sanaa.htm

3. Declaration of Santiago
6 May 1994

Endorsed by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session - 1995

We the participants in the United Nations/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/United Nations Development Programme, "Seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 6 May 1994,

Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, and regardless of frontiers",

Recalling the American Convention on Human Rights (Pacto de San José de Costa Rica),

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 59(I) of 14 December 1946, stating that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly Resolution 45/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity;

Recalling Resolution 104 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its twenty-fifth session in 1989, in which the main focus is the promotion of "the free flow of ideas by word and image at international as well as national levels",

Recalling Resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session in 1991, which recognizes that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society and which endorses the Declaration adopted by the participants at the United Nations/UNESCO Seminar on "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press", held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 48/133 of 20 December 1993, on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Stressing the growing role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO, whose Intergovernmental Council decided, at its February 1992 session, to give priority to projects which seek to reinforce independent and pluralistic media,

Noting with appreciation the statement made by the representative of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, the statement made by the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO, and the statement made by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the opening of the Seminar,

Noting with satisfaction that the holding of the Seminar coincided with the first observance of World Press Freedom Day, established by General Assembly Decision of 20 December 1993,

Noting with appreciation the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, delivered on his behalf by the representative of the Department of Public Information, the message on the occasion of the Day by the Director-General of UNESCO delivered on his behalf by the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics, the statement made by the President of the Republic of Chile and the statement made by the Mayor of the City of Santiago at the dedication ceremony of the International Square of Freedom of the Press, in Santiago, on 3 May 1994, World Press Freedom Day,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Chile for their kind hospitality, which facilitated the success of the Seminar,

Expressing our gratitude to the Mayor and people of Santiago for dedicating on 3 May 1994, World Press Freedom Day, a square, in Santiago, to press freedom,
Expressing our sincere appreciation to the United Nations, UNESCO and UNDP for organizing the Seminar,
Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations which contributed to the United Nations/UNESCO/UNDP effort to organize the Seminar,
Aware that peace, development and democracy are intimately interlinked, and recognizing that the Latin American and Caribbean media, amongst the most dynamic in the world, have played a major role in favour of peace, democracy and world economic and social development,
Express our full support for, and total commitment to, the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Windhoek, and acknowledge its importance as a milestone in the struggle for free, independent and pluralistic print and broadcast media in all regions of the world.
Regarding the specific situation prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean, where there exist highly developed print and electronic media of which some are known worldwide, and small and community media, including those recently established, with very limited means, in particular in rural and marginalized urban areas,

We declare that :

1- Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of our democracies. Democracy is a prerequisite for peace and development within and between our countries. Freedom of the press is a key and indivisible part of the freedom of expression.
2- All States of the region must be encouraged to provide constitutional guaranties for freedom of expression, freedom of the press for all forms of media, freedom of association and freedom for media trade unions.
3- Respect for pluralism, cultural, language and gender diversity should be a fundamental factor in our democratic societies and should be reflected through all the media.
4- We strongly condemn the fact that journalists, publishers and broadcasters are still victims of repression, threats, agression, murder, arrest, detention and abduction for which the criminals, in many cases, enjoy impunity. They are also restricted by economic and political pressures such as censorship; restrictions on newsprint and other professional equipment and material; licensing systems and abusive controls which limit the opportunity to publish or broadcast; travel or visa denials and restrictions which prevent the free movement of journalists; limitations on the free flow of news and information; and restrictions on the circulation of periodicals within countries and across national borders.
5- Our aim is to promote the greatest possible number of newspapers, magazines, videos, radio and television stations reflecting the widest possible range of opinion in the community.
6- State authorities should make available in a timely and reasonable manner the information generated by the public sector.
7- No journalist should be forced to reveal his or her sources of information.
8- In accordance with the fundamental rights of expression and association as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the access to and the practice of journalism must be free, and not limited by any means.
9- There is an urgent need to increase training and educational programmes for journalists and other media practitioners with a view to improving their professional standards.
10- We call on the General Assembly of the United Nations to create a "World Press Freedom Prize", to be awarded annually, to honour individuals, organizations or institutions that

have contributed significantly to the advancement of freedom of information, irrespective of the medium, print or electronic. The jury shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO, and shall be composed of distinguished personalities recognized and respected for their dedication to the cause of freedom of the press and for their internationally recognized ethical standing.

Plan of action :

The Plan of Action adopted by the Seminar proposes the following measures:

1. Promotion of community media in rural, indigenous and marginal urban areas

Taking into account the increasing importance of community media in the democratic process in the region, to request the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the assistance of professional organizations and research institutions, to survey the current situation of community media concerning legislation, frequencies, power limitations and advertising restrictions, with a view to making recommendations for the consideration of the governments concerned.

To request the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO and donor agencies to support projects for the creation of new community media, both print and broadcast, and projects aimed at strengthening existing community media in accordance with international norms, especially those media serving women, youth, indigenous populations and minorities.

To call upon professional organizations and the regional and national representatives of international organizations involved in community development issues, to encourage community media to exchange information among themselves and with other media. In so doing, they will contribute to the development of communication networks.

2. Training

To promote and support the training of journalists, broadcasters and other media professionals, especially those working in rural and marginal urban areas. To this end the curricula should include the legal, technological, managerial, marketing, advertising, gender and cultural aspects of the media.

To recommend to media organizations in the region, (journalists, broadcasters and publishers) to hold a meeting with a view to harmonizing their training and educational programmes and working methods, and to adapting them to new technologies, in collaboration if necessary with UNESCO.

To encourage the reading of both community and national newspapers in school as learning tools, in order to enable children to understand the value of the free press and to learn to exercise their judgement. Further, to include in the curriculum of primary education the issue of freedom of the press.

To ask UNESCO to convene, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN agencies, seminars to analyze the status and the participation of women in the media.

3. Free press and the safety of journalists

A. To extend the number of monitoring centres in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and to link them with the existing International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Action Alert Network, using joint resources of professional national and international organizations with assistance from UNESCO.

B. In addition to monitoring aggression against journalists, to request IFEX to investigate the possibility of including in the monitoring system serious cases of visa rejection, limited

movement of journalists and restrictions on the free flow of information in the region, among other press freedom issues.

C. To request UNESCO to participate, together with professional organizations, in promoting at different levels of society awareness of the right of journalists to exercise their profession safely.

4. Equipment and technology

To request UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with professional organizations, to advise small media, especially in rural and marginal urban areas, on available technology optimal for their needs.

To ask the IPDC, the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme (IIP) and the Programme of General Information (PGI), all three of UNESCO, to support the creation of networks, documentation centers and data bases in the Latin American and Caribbean countries in order for journalists and broadcasters to have access to international information, as well as manuals, texts, compact discs (CD ROM) and other kinds of training material.

5. Research

A. To encourage media organizations, universities, research institutions and governmental and intergovernmental agencies to conduct research on the impact of communication technology development on indigenous communities, with a view to maintaining their cultural identity.

B. To recommend that UNESCO, in cooperation with professional organizations, conduct a comparative study of legislation affecting media.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy/santiago.htm

4. Declaration of Alma Ata

9 October 1992

Endorsed by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session - 1995

We the participants in the United Nations/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media, held in Alma Ata, Kazakstan, from 5 to 9 October 1992,

Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, and regardless of frontiers",

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 59(I) of 14 December 1946, stating that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly Resolution 45/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity,

Recalling Resolution 104 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-fifth session in 1989, in which the main focus is the promotion of "the free flow of ideas by word and image-at international as well as national levels",

Recalling Resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session in 1991, which recognizes that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society and which endorses the Declaration adopted by the participants at the United Nations/UNESCO Seminar on "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press", held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991,

Stressing the growing role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), whose Intergovernmental Council decided, at its February 1992 session, to give priority to projects which seek to reinforce independent and pluralistic media,

Noting with appreciation the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Seminar, delivered on his behalf by his representative, the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the statement made by the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO at the opening of the Seminar,

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the United Nations and UNESCO for organizing the Seminar,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakstan for their kind hospitality, which facilitated the success of the Seminar,

Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which contributed to the United Nations/UNESCO effort to organize the Seminar,

Recognizing the historic emergence of newly independent media in the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union, and the need to build upon the innovative achievements of the Seminar in Africa,

Declare our full support for, and total commitment to, the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Windhoek, and acknowledge its importance as a milestone in the struggle for free, independent and pluralistic print and broadcast media in all regions of the world.

Specific Project Proposals

In Asia and the Pacific, including the newly independent Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union, which identify with the Asian region, we seek practical application of the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Windhoek, in conjunction with relevant national and international professional organisations and relevant UN agencies, in the following specific project proposals and in the following fields:

1. Legislation

To give expert advice and legal drafting assistance to replace redundant press laws inherited at independence with laws that create enforceable rights to freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, access to information and freedom of the press; to abolish monopolies and all forms of discrimination in broadcasting and allocation of frequencies, in printing, newspaper and magazine distribution, and in newsprint production and distribution; and to abolish barriers to launching new publications, and discriminatory taxation.

2. Training

To promote a programme of national in-country and sub-regional seminars and/or training courses covering:

(a) professional skills, including extensive training and treatment of development issues;

(b) management, marketing and technical skills for the print and broadcast media;

(c) international principles of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of information and freedom of the press;

(d) international principles of freedom of association, management/staff relations, collective bargaining skills and the rights and responsibilities of representative associations of journalists, editors, broadcasters and publishers;

(e) principles of journalists' independence and the relationship between the editorial department of a newspaper, the board of directors and the administrative, advertising and commercial departments;

(f) appropriate curricula and training methodology for journalism training institutions (including tutor/lecturer exchange programmes) and special trainer programmes;

(g) access to training programmes and facilities;

(h) codes of conduct relating to advertising in the broadcast media;

(i) the rights of women in the media, and the rights of minority groups within societies.

3. Free Flow of Information

As a matter of urgency:

(a) To support the establishment of media resource centres in the Central Asian Republics where journalists and other media personnel can gain access to international news and information, manuals, textbooks and study materials, and where they can utilize desktop publishing equipment to prepare material for publication;

(b) to assist independent media in the upgrading of production, content and presentation of television news and current affairs programmes through the provision of new technology and the exposure of staff to modern and alternative production techniques and values;

(c) to assist in the establishment of an inter-country news exchange service, in order to increase the flow of international, national and regional news and information to and from neighbouring countries, and to help upgrade technology and develop more extensive communication links.

4. Safety of Journalists

To support the right of journalists to exercise their profession safely, and to establish a protection centre (or centres) in the region to link up with the proposed IFEX (International Freedom of Information Exchange) Action Alert Network for Asia, aiming specifically at the safety of journalists and press freedom issues.

5. Public Service Broadcasting

To encourage the development of journalistically independent public service broadcasting in place of existing State-controlled broadcasting structures, and to promote the development of community radio.

To upgrade educational broadcasting through support for distance education programmes such as English-language instruction and formal and nonformal education, literacy programmes, and information programmes on AIDS, the environment, children, etc.

6. Professional Associations

To assist Central Asian journalists, editors, publishers and broadcasters in establishing truly independent representative associations, syndicates or trade unions of journalists and associations of editors, publishers and broadcasters where such bodies do not yet exist.

7. Special Economic Issues

To identify economic barriers to the creation of new, independent media in Central Asia and in particular to arrange a feasibility study into alternative methods of acquiring and distributing newsprint, alternative facilities for printing and distributing newspapers and magazines and alternative means of obtaining low-interest credit.

* * * * *

The above projects, while identified as specific needs of Central Asian media, have region-wide applications. The participants call on UNESCO and its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP), international professional organizations, donor countries, foundations and other interested parties to contribute generously to, and cooperate in, the implementation of these initiatives.

The participants request that this Declaration be presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the United Nations General Assembly, and by the Director-General of UNESCO to the General Conference of UNESCO.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy/almaty.htm

5. Declaration of Windhoek
3 May 1991

Endorsed by the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session - 1991

We the participants in the United Nations/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59(I) of 14 December 1946 stating that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly resolution 45/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity,

Recalling resolution 25C/104 of the General Conference of UNESCO of 1989 in which the main focus is the promotion of "the free flow of ideas by word and image at international as well as national levels",

Noting with appreciation the statements made by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO at the opening of the Seminar,

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the United Nations and UNESCO for organizing the Seminar,

Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which contributed to the United Nations/UNESCO effort to organize the Seminar,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia for their kind hospitality which facilitated the success of the Seminar,

We Declare that:

Consistent with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the establishment, maintenance and fostering of an independent, pluralistic and free press is essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation, and for economic development.

By an independent press, we mean a press independent from governmental, political or economic control or from control of materials and infrastructure essential for the production and dissemination of newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

By a pluralistic press, we mean the end of monopolies of any kind and the existence of the greatest possible number of newspapers, magazines and periodicals reflecting the widest possible range of opinion within the community.

The welcome changes that an increasing number of African States are now undergoing towards multi-party democracies provide the climate in which an independent and pluralistic press can emerge.

The world-wide trend towards democracy and freedom of information and expression is a fundamental contribution to the fulfilment of human aspirations.

In Africa today, despite the positive developments in some countries, in many countries journalists, editors and publishers are victims of repression-they are murdered, arrested, detained and censored, and are restricted by economic and political pressures such as restrictions on newsprint, licensing systems which restrict the opportunity to publish, visa restrictions which prevent the free movement of journalists, restrictions on the exchange of news and information, and limitations on the circulation of newspapers within countries and across national borders. In some countries, one-party States control the totality of information.

Today, at least 17 journalists, editors or publishers are in African prisons, and 48 African journalists were killed in the exercise of their profession between 1969 and 1990.

The General Assembly of the United Nations should include in the agenda of its next session an item on the declaration of censorship as a grave violation of human rights falling within the purview of the Commission on Human Rights.

African States should be encouraged to provide constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and freedom of association.

To encourage and consolidate the positive changes taking place in Africa, and to counter the negative ones, the international community-specifically, international organizations (governmental as well as non-governmental), development agencies and professional associations-should as a matter of priority direct funding support towards the development and establishment of non-governmental newspapers, magazines and periodicals that reflect the society as a whole and the different points of view within the communities they serve.

All funding should aim to encourage pluralism as well as independence. As a consequence, the public media should be funded only where authorities guarantee a constitutional and effective freedom of information and expression and the independence of the press.

To assist in the preservation of the freedoms enumerated above, the establishment of truly independent, representative associations, syndicates or trade unions of journalists, and associations of editors and publishers, is a matter of priority in all the countries of Africa where such bodies do not now exist.

The national media and labour relations laws of African countries should be drafted in such a way as to ensure that such representative associations can exist and fulfil their important tasks in defence of press freedom.

As a sign of good faith, African Governments that have jailed journalists for their professional activities should free them immediately. Journalists who have had to leave their countries should be free to return to resume their professional activities.

Cooperation between publishers within Africa, and between publishers of the North and South (for example through the principle of twinning), should be encouraged and supported.

As a matter of urgency, the United Nations and UNESCO, and particularly the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), should initiate detailed

research, in cooperation with governmental (especially UNDP) and non-governmental donor agencies, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations, into the following specific areas:

(i) identification of economic barriers to the establishment of news media outlets, including restrictive import duties, tariffs and quotas for such things as newsprint, printing equipment, and typesetting and word processing machinery, and taxes on the sale of newspapers, as a prelude to their removal;

(ii) training of journalists and managers and the availability of professional training institutions and courses;

(iii) legal barriers to the recognition and effective operation of trade unions or associations of journalists, editors and publishers;

(iv) a register of available funding from development and other agencies, the conditions attaching to the release of such funds, and the methods of applying for them;

(v) the state of press freedom, country by country, in Africa.

In view of the importance of radio and television in the field of news and information, the United Nations and UNESCO are invited to recommend to the General Assembly and the General Conference the convening of a similar seminar of journalists and managers of radio and television services in Africa, to explore the possibility of applying similar concepts of independence and pluralism to those media.

The international community should contribute to the achievement and implementation of the initiatives and projects set out in the annex to this Declaration.

This Declaration should be presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the United Nations General Assembly, and by the Director-General of UNESCO to the General Conference of UNESCO.

ANNEX

Initiatives and Projects Identified in the Seminar

I. Development of co-operation between private African newspapers:
- to aid them in the mutual exchange of their publications;
- to aid them in the exchange of information;
- to aid them in sharing their experience by the exchange of journalists;
- to organize on their behalf training courses and study trips for their journalists, managers and technical personnel.

II. Creation of separate, independent national unions for publishers, news editors and journalists.

III. Creation of regional unions for publishers, editors and independent journalists

IV. Development and promotion of non-governmental regulations and codes of ethics in each country in order to defend more effectively the profession and ensure its credibility.

V. Financing of a study on the readership of independent newspapers in order to set up groups of advertising agents.

Vl. Financing of a feasibility study for the establishment of an independent press aid foundation and research into identifying capital funds for the foundation.

VII. Financing of a feasibility study for the creation of a central board for the purchase of newsprint and the establishment of such a board.

VIII. Support and creation of regional African press enterprises

IX. Aid with a view to establishing structures to monitor attacks on freedom of the press and the independence of journalists following the example of the West African Journalists' Association.

X. Creation of a data bank for the independent African press for the documentation of news items essential to newspapers.

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy

Part 4: Civil Society Declaration to the World Summit on the Information Society
"Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs"
Geneva, 8 December 2003

Unanimously Adopted by the WSIS Civil Society Plenary on 8 December 2003
We, women and men from different continents, cultural backgrounds, perspectives, experience and expertise, acting as members of different constituencies of an emerging global civil society, considering civil society participation as fundamental to the first ever held UN Summit on Information and Communication issues, the World Summit on the Information Society, have been working for two years inside the process, devoting our efforts to shaping people-centred, inclusive and equitable concept of information and communication societies.(1)

Working together both on-line and off-line as civil society entities, practising an inclusive and participatory use of information and communication technologies, has allowed us to share views and shape common positions, and to collectively develop a vision of information and communication societies .

At this step of the process, the first phase of the Summit, Geneva, December 2003, our voices and the general interest we collectively expressed are not adequately reflected in the Summit documents. We propose this document as part of the official outcomes of the Summit. Convinced that this vision can become reality through the actions and lives of women and men, communities and people, we hereby present our own vision to all, as an invitation to participate in this ongoing dialogue and to join forces in shaping our common future .

1. A Visionary Society

At the heart of our vision of information and communications societies is the human being. The dignity and rights of all peoples and each person must be promoted, respected, protected and affirmed. Redressing the inexcusable gulf between levels of development and between opulence and extreme poverty must therefore be our prime concern.

We are committed to building information and communication societies that are people-centred, inclusive and equitable. Societies in which everyone can freely create, access, utilise, share and disseminate information and knowledge, so that individuals, communities and peoples are empowered to improve their quality of life and to achieve their full potential. Societies founded on the principles of social, political, and economic justice, and peoples' full participation and empowerment, and thus societies that truly address the key development challenges facing the world today. Societies that pursue the objectives of sustainable development, democracy, and gender equality, for the attainment of a more peaceful, just, egalitarian and thus sustainable world, premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights .

We aspire to build information and communication societies where development is framed by fundamental human rights and oriented to achieving a more equitable distribution of resources, leading to the elimination of poverty in a way that is non-exploitative and environmentally sustainable. To this end we believe technologies can be engaged as fundamental means, rather than becoming ends in themselves, thus recognising that bridging the Digital Divide is only one step on the road to achieving development for all. We recognise the tremendous potential of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in overcoming the devastation of famine, natural catastrophes, new pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, as well as the proliferation of arms.

We reaffirm that communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and a foundation of all social organisation. Everyone, everywhere, at any time should have the opportunity to participate in communication processes and no one should be excluded from their benefits. This implies that every person must have access to the means of communication and must be able to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the right to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Similarly, the right to privacy, the right to access public information and the public domain of knowledge, and many other universal human rights of specific relevance to information and communication processes, must also be upheld. Together with access, all these communication rights and freedoms must be actively guaranteed for all in clearly written national laws and enforced with adequate technical requirements.

Building such societies implies involving individuals in their capacity as citizens, as well as their organisations and communities, as participants and decision-makers in shaping frameworks, policies and governing mechanisms. This means creating an enabling environment for the engagement and commitment of all generations, both women and men, and ensuring the involvement of diverse social and linguistic groups, cultures and peoples, rural and urban populations without exclusion. In addition, governments should maintain and promote public services where required by citizens and establish accountability to citizens as a pillar of public policy, in order to ensure that models of information and communication societies are open to continuing correction and improvement.

We recognise that no technology is neutral with respect to its social impacts and, therefore, the possibility of having so-called "technology-neutral" decision-making processes is a fallacy. It is critical to make careful social and technical choices concerning the introduction of new technologies from the inception of their design through to their deployment and operational phases. Negative social and technical impacts of information and communications systems that are discovered late in the design process are usually extremely difficult to correct and, therefore, can cause lasting harm. We envision an information and communication society in which technologies are designed in a participatory manner with and by their end-users so as to prevent or minimise their negative impacts.

We envision societies where human knowledge, creativity, cooperation and solidarity are considered core elements; where not only individual creativity, but also collective innovation, based on cooperative work are promoted. Societies where knowledge, information and communication resources are recognised and protected as the common heritage of humankind; societies that guarantee and foster cultural and linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue, in environments that are free from discrimination, violence and hatred.

We are conscious that information, knowledge and the means of communication are available on a magnitude that humankind has never dreamt of in the past; but we are also aware that exclusion from access to the means of communication, from information and from the skills that are needed to participate in the public sphere, is still a major constraint, especially in developing countries. At the same time information and knowledge are increasingly being transformed into private resources which can be controlled ,sold and bought, as if they were simple commodities and not the founding elements of social organisation and development. Thus, as one of the main challenges of information and communication societies, we recognise the urgency of seeking solutions to these contradictions.

We are convinced that with the sufficient political will to mobilise this wealth of human knowledge and the appropriate resources, humanity could certainly achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration, and even surpass them. As civil society organisations, we accept our part of responsibility in making this goal and our vision a reality.

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3. Conclusion

2. Core Principles and Challenges

In accordance with this vision, it is essential that the development of information and communication societies be grounded in core principles that reflect a full awareness of the challenges to be met and the responsibility of different stakeholders. This includes the full recognition of the need to address gender concerns and to make a fundamental commitment to gender equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment, and recognise these as non-negotiable and essential prerequisites to an equitable and people-centred development within information and communication societies. Such a commitment means consciously redressing the effects of the intersection of unequal power relations in the social, economic and political spheres, which manifests in differential access, choice, opportunity, participation, status and control over resources between women and men as well as communities in terms of class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, geographical location and development status.

We have identified the following as key areas of concern. We recognise and uphold the following principles; and we have identified certain priority areas for action by the international community.

2.1 Social Justice and People-Centred Sustainable Development

Within a social justice framework, human development implies cultural, social, economic, political and environmental living conditions that fulfill and empower individuals and communities. Despite the enormous advancements in knowledge and technology achieved by humanity, a majority of people continue to live in appalling conditions.

Social justice in the information and communication societies can only be pursued by taking into account geo-political and historical injustices along economic, social, political and cultural lines. Current global dynamics are characterised by tensions resulting from the inter-linkages of global economic liberalisation, cultural globalisation, increased militarism, rising fundamentalisms, racism and the suspension and violation of basic human rights.

The unequal distribution of ICTs and the lack of information access for a large majority of the world's population, often referred to as the digital divide, is in fact a mapping of new asymmetries onto the existing grid of social divides. These include the divide between the North and South, rich and poor, men and women, urban and rural populations, those with access to information and those without. Such disparities are found not only between different cultures, but also within national borders. The international community must exercise its collective power to ensure action on the part of individual states in order to bridge domestic digital divides.

Redressing all forms of discrimination, exclusion and isolation that different marginalised and vulnerable groups and communities experience will require more than the deployment of technology alone. Their full participation in information and communication societies requires us to reject at a fundamental level, the solely profit-motivated and market-propelled promotion of ICTs for development. Conscious and purposeful actions need to be taken in order to ensure that new ICTs are not deployed to further perpetuate existing negative trends of economic globalisation and market monopolisation. Instead, ICT development and applications should be oriented to advance the social, economic and cultural progress of the world's peoples and contribute to transforming the development paradigm.

Technological decisions should be taken with the goal of meeting the life-critical needs of people, not with goal of enriching companies or enabling undemocratic control by governments. Therefore, fundamental decisions concerning the design and use of technologies must be made in cooperation with Civil Society, including individual end-users, engineers, and scientists. In particular, where community-based technologies are concerned the study and practice of community informatics must be applied in order to respond adequately to the particular characteristics and needs of communities in design processes .

2.1.1 Poverty Eradication

Poverty Eradication must be a key priority on the WSIS agenda. Without challenging existing inequalities, no sustainable development embracing the new ICTs can be achieved. People living in extreme poverty must be enabled to contribute their experiences and knowledge in a dialogue involving all parties. Challenging poverty requires more than setting `development agendas'. It requires a fundamental commitment to examine the current frameworks, to improve local access to information that is of relevance for the specific context, to improve training in ICT-related skills, and to allocate significant financial and other resources. Also, because volunteers are working at the grassroots level, they play an important role in social inclusion.

Financial resources, linked with social and digital solidarity, need to be channelled through existing and new financial mechanisms that are managed transparently and inclusively by all sectors of society. Among the frameworks that need to be examined in terms of their potentially adverse effects on equitable development are the current arrangements for

recognition and governance of monopolised knowledge and information, including the work of WIPO and the functioning of the TRIPS agreement .

2.1.2 Global Citizenship

Information and communication societies have the potential to catalyse and help release the enormous financial, technical, human and moral resources required for sustainable development. These resources will only be freed up as the peoples of the world develop a profound sense of responsibility for the fate of the planet and the well-being of the entire human family. In this regard, there is a need for the development in the individual and in communities, as well as governments, of a global consciousness ,and a sense of world citizenship. Since the body of humankind is one and indivisible, each member of the human race is born into the world as a trust of the whole and is best served by ensuring the equal importance of each member through the proactive exercise and application of international human rights standards.

2.1.3 Gender Justice

Equitable, open and inclusive information and communication societies must be based on gender justice and be particularly guided by the interpretation of principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment as contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Fourth World Conference on Women) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Actions must demonstrate not only a strong commitment but also a high level of consciousness to an intersectional approach to redressing discrimination resulting from unequal power relations at all levels of society. Proactive policies and programmes across all sectors must be developed for women as active and primary agents of change in owning, designing, using and adapting ICT. To empower girls and women throughout their life cycle, as shapers and leaders of society, gender responsive educational programs and appropriate learning environments need to be promoted. Gender analysis and the development of both quantitative and qualitative indicators in measuring gender equality through an extensive and integrated national system of monitoring and evaluation are "musts ".

2.1.4 Importance of Youth

We recognise also that young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by information and communication societies. In particular, we must seek to assist and empower youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially young people in developing countries. Equality of opportunity for girls and young women must be integral to our efforts, and we must create a greater awareness of their specific needs and potential in the field of ICT. Issues facing young workers in ICT industries, such as low pay, poor working conditions, and a lack of job stability and collective representation, must also be addressed. As main users of ICTs, young people are most affected and vulnerable to the health risks exposed by their use. Therefore we commit to develop and use only those ICTs that ensure the well-being, protection, and harmonious development of all children.

2.1.5 Access to Information and the Means of Communication

Access to information and the means of communication as a public and global commons should be participatory, universal, inclusive and democratic. Inequalities in access must be addressed in terms of the North/South divide as well as in terms of enduring inequalities within developed and less developed nations. Barriers that need to be overcome are of an economic, educational, technical, political, social, ethnic, and age nature, and inequitable gender relations are embedded into all of these and need to be specifically addressed .

Universal access to information that is essential for human development must be ensured. Infrastructure and the most appropriate forms of information and communication technologies must be accessible for all in their different social context, and the social appropriation of these technologies must be encouraged. This implies addressing diverse realities experienced by distinct social groups such as indigenous peoples, diasporas and migrants, and privileging local or targeted solutions. Traditional media and community-based information and communication initiatives have a vital role to play in these respects, and so does the effective use of the new ICTs. The regulatory and legal framework in all information and communication societies must be strengthened to support broad-based sharing of technologies, information, and knowledge, and to foster community control, respectful of human rights and freedoms.

Specific needs and requirements of all stakeholders, including those with disabilities, must be considered in ICT development. Accessibility and inclusiveness of ICTs is best done at an early stage of design, development and production, so that the information and communication society becomes the society for all, at minimum cost .

The need to access, send and receive information represents a particularly vital challenge to vulnerable people such as refugees, those displaced by war, and asylum seekers who often do not know their rights, which are frequently violated. Access to means of communication for these groups is necessary for the defence and promotion of their rights, in order to make legitimate claims in conformity with international law .

2.1.6 Access to Health Information

The delivery of life-critical mental and physical health information can be facilitated and improved through ICT-based solutions. Lack of access to information and communication has been identified as a critical factor in the public mental and physical health crises around the world. Experts have suggested that providing citizens of developing countries with community level points of access to mental and physical health information would be a critical starting point for addressing the mental and physical health care crises. However, such access points should support more than one-way flows of information (for example, from expert to community or patient). Communities must be allowed to participate in the selection and creation of communication flows that they find useful and necessary to address the prevention, treatment, and promotion of mental and physical health care for all people. Open access to medical information is absolutely essential so that all known data are available to medical doctors and practitioners.

2.1.7 Basic Literacy

Literacy and free universal access to education is a key principle. Knowledge societies require an informed and educated citizenry. Capacity-building needs to include skills to use ICTs,

media and information literacy, and the skills needed for active citizenship including the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. Approaches that are local, horizontal, gender-responsive and socially driven and mediated should be prioritised. A combination of traditional and new media as well as open access to knowledge and information should be encouraged. Libraries أگ both real and virtual أگ- have an important role to play to ensure access to knowledge and information available to everyone. At the international and multilateral level, the public domain of knowledge and culture needs to be protected. People-centred information technologies can foster eradication of illnesses and epidemics, can help give everyone food, shelter, freedom and peace.

Literacy, education and research are fundamental components of information, communication and knowledge societies. Knowledge creation and acquisition should be nurtured as a participatory and collective process and not considered a one-way flow or confined to one section of capacity building. Education (formal, informal, and lifelong) builds democracy both by creating a literate citizenry and a skilled workforce. But only an informed and educated citizenry with access to the means and outputs of pluralistic research can fully participate in and effectively contribute to knowledge societies .

Urgent attention should be paid to the potential positive and negative impacts of ICTs on the issues of illiteracy in regional, national and international languages of the great majority of the world•أs peoples. Literacy, education, and research efforts in the information and communication societies must include a focus on the needs of people who have physical impairments and all means of transcending those impairments (for example, voice recognition, e-learning, and open university training) must be promoted.

2.1.8 Development of Sustainable and Community-based ICT Solutions

In order that communities and individuals may fully enjoy the benefits of the information and communication society, ICTs must be designed and manufactured according to environmentally sustainable principles. Technological solutions must also be sustainable in the sense that communities are able to support their use and evolution.

Equipment recycling must meet environmental standards. The production of technologies must not consume an unsustainable amount of energy or natural resources .

It is essential to develop concrete proposals and policies to improve resource efficiency and develop renewable energy resources. This involves 'dematerialising' (for example, using less paper) and reducing ICT-related waste; increasing the useful life of hardware; improving recycling conditions; ensuring safe disposal of discarded ICT hardware and parts; and encouraging the development of alternatives to toxic ICT components. This also implies giving the highest priority to creating and using renewable energy resources to address the basic needs of populations living in developing countries. Renewable energy resources should be used for ICT-based dissemination of information and communications, including radio and television. Africa can particularly benefit from solar power due to its high level of exposure to direct solar radiation. By mobilising regional synergies, complemented by the necessary technical and financial cooperation, Africa could play a leading role in this strategic domain in the next decade.

Communities must have the ability to participate directly in the development and maintenance of ICT-based solutions to their own problems. In order that communities may create and sustain their own solutions using ICTs, they must be empowered to develop their own productive forces and control the means of production within information societies. This must include the right to participate fully in the development and sustenance of ICT-based projects through democratic processes, including decision making with respect to economic, cultural, environmental, and other issues. ICTs should be used as an instrument for the creation of genuine and sustainable sources of work, thus providing new labour opportunities.
In order that communities and individuals may create economically and technically sustainable solutions, they must have the right to use Free Software. This makes software more affordable, and, allows people to participate in its development and maintenance(2). ICT-based innovation should adhere to the use of international technical standards for hardware, software, and processes, which are open, freely implementable, publicly documented, interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven.

It is important to support community-based communications using both traditional and new media and communication technologies. There is a need for the development and nurturing of the discipline of community informatics, which focuses on the particular characteristics and needs of communities, in relation to design, development, deployment, and operation of ICTs, as well as local content production.

2.1.9 Conflict Situations

We recognise that the use of media can be both positive and negative in conflict situations, including post-conflict peace building. We therefore insist that the rights of journalists and of all people to gather and communicate information, using any media ,be especially respected during conflicts. These rights should be inviolate at all times but are crucial during war, violent conflict, and non-violent protest.

We are particularly concerned about the deployment of "information warfare" technologies and techniques, including the purposeful jamming, blocking, or destruction of civilian communication systems during conflict situations; the use of 'embedded' journalists coupled with the targeting of non-embedded journalists; the use of media and communication systems to promote hatred and genocide; by military, police, or other security forces, be they governmental, privately owned, or non-state actors, during conflict situations both international and domestic.

Information intervention in conflict situations should be bound by international law, and the WSIS should encourage work on a future convention against information warfare to address these concerns. At the same time, the WSIS should not only limit information warfare and the control of media in conflict situations, but also actively promote media and communications for peace. To that end, we encourage governments to decrease public subsidy for military communications technology, and instead spend money directly on developing peaceful communications tools and applications.

2.2 Centrality of Human Rights

An information and communication society should be based on human rights and human dignity. With the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights as its foundation, it must embody the universality, indivisibility, interrelation and interdependence of all human rights أگ- civil, political, economic, social and cultural أگ including the right to development and linguistic rights. This implies the full integration, concrete application and enforcement of all rights and the recognition of their centrality to democracy and sustainable development. Information and communication societies must be inclusive, so that all people, without distinction of any kind, can achieve their full potential. The principles of non-discrimination and diversity must be mainstreamed in all ICT regulation, policies, and programmes.

2.2.1 Freedom of Expression

Article19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is of fundamental and specific importance, since it forms an essential condition for human rights-based information and communication societies. Article 19 requires that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, through any media and regardless of frontiers. This implies free circulation of ideas, pluralism of the sources of information and the media, press freedom, and availability of the tools to access information and share knowledge. Freedom of expression on the Internet must be protected by the rule of law rather than through self-regulation and codes of conduct. There must be no prior censorship, arbitrary control of, or constraints on, participants in the communication process or on the content, transmission and dissemination of information. Pluralism of the sources of information and the media must be safeguarded and promoted .

2.2.2 Right to Privacy

The right to privacy, enshrined in Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is essential for self-determined human development in regard to civic, political, social, economic and cultural activities. The right to privacy faces new challenges in information and communication societies, and must be protected in public spaces, online, offline, at home and in the workplace. Every person must have the right to decide freely whether and in what manner he or she wants to receive information and communicate with others. The possibility of communicating anonymously must be ensured for everyone. The power of the private sector and of governments over personal data increases the risk of abuse, including monitoring and surveillance. Such activities must be kept to a legally legitimised minimum in a democratic society, and must remain accountable. The collection, retention, processing, use and disclosure of personal data, no matter by whom, should remain under the control of and determined by the individual concerned.

2.2.3 Right to Participate in Public Affairs

Good government administration and justice in a democratic society implies openness, transparency, accountability, participation and compliance with the rule of law. Respect for these principles is needed to enforce the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Public access to information produced or maintained by governments should be enforced, ensuring that the information is timely, complete and accessible in a format and language the public can understand. This further applies to access to documents of corporations relating to their activities affecting the public interest, especially in situations where the government has not made such information public.

2.2.4 Workers' Rights

ICTs are progressively changing our way of working. The creation of fair, secure, safe and healthy working conditions, in the manufacture of equipment and software, and in the

utilisation of ICTs in the workplace in general, which respect international labour standards, for instance through tripartite social dialogue, is fundamental. ICTs should be used to promote awareness of, respect for and enforcement of human rights standards and international labour standards. Human rights, such as privacy, freedom of expression, linguistic rights, the right for on-line workers to form and join trade unions and the right of trade unions to function freely, including communicating with employees, must be respected in the workplace.

2.2.5 Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The evolution of information and communication societies must be founded on the respect and promotion of the recognition of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their distinctiveness as outlined in international conventions. Indigenous Peoples have fundamental rights to protect, preserve and strengthen their own language, culture and identity. ICT's should be used to support and promote diversity and the rights and means of Indigenous Peoples to benefit fully and with priority from their cultural, intellectual and so-called natural resources.

2.2.6 Women's Rights

In order to realise women's rights in the information and communication societies, as spelled out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Fifth World Conference on Women), it is crucial to acknowledge and address the differences, disparities and disadvantages that women experience. This means taking into account the ways in which women are different from men, and how these differences translate into differential levels of access, opportunity, participation and use of ICTs. It must be ensured that policy or legal interventions and programmes consciously address these differences. To ensure effective equality of women, and thereby enabling women's full ability to claim and exercise their human rights, it is necessary to adopt a substantive equality approach in the analysis, which informs the content of ICT policy and programmes. This approach implies that actions to promote women's rights must transform the unequal power relation between women and men. Women need not only equality of opportunity, but also equality of access to opportunities and the ability to fully participate in availing such opportunities.

2.2.7 Rights of the Child

Information and communication societies must respect and promote the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child is entitled to a happy childhood and to enjoy the rights and freedoms available to all persons under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All persons, civil society, private sector and governments should commit to uphold the Rights of the Child in information and communication societies .

2.2.8 Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In inclusive information and communication societies, the rights of persons with disabilities to have full and equal access to information and communications including ICTs, regardless of types and degree of disabilities, must be ensured by public policies ,laws and regulations at all levels. In order to achieve this goal, a Universal Design principle and the use of assistive technologies must be seriously promoted and supported throughout the whole process of building and nurturing information and communication societies in which persons with disabilities and their organisations must be allowed to participate fully and on equal terms with non-disabled people.

2.2.9 Regulation and the Rule of Law

National regulation should be in full compliance with international human rights standards, adhering to the rule of law. Information and communication societies must not result in any discrimination or deprivation of human rights resulting from the acts or omission of governments or of non-state actors under their jurisdictions. Any restriction on the use of ICTs must pursue a legitimate aim under international law, be prescribed by law, be strictly proportionate to such an aim, and be necessary in a democratic society.

2.3 Culture, Knowledge and the Public Domain

Information and communication societies are enriched by their diversity of cultures and languages, retained and passed on through oral tradition or recorded and transmitted through a variety of media, and together contributing to the sum of human knowledge .Human knowledge is the heritage of all humankind and the reservoir from which all new knowledge is created. The preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity, the freedom of the media and the defence and extension of the public domain of global knowledge are as essential, for information and communication societies, as the diversity of our natural environment.

2.3.1 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Cultural and linguistic diversity is an essential dimension of people-centred information and communication societies. Every culture has dignity and value that must be respected and preserved. Cultural and linguistic diversity is based, among other things ,on the freedom of information and expression and the right of everyone to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, at local, national and international levels. This participation includes activities both as users and producers of cultural content. ICTs including traditional communications media have a particularly important role to play in sustaining and developing the world's cultures and languages .

2.3.1.1 Capacity Building and Education

Cultural and linguistic diversity should not only be preserved; it needs to be fostered. This implies capacity to express oneself, in one's own language, at any time, by any means, including traditional media and new ICTs. In order to become a contributor and a creator in the information and communication societies, not only technical skills are needed, but critical and creative competence. Media education in the sense of the UNESCO Grunwald Declaration must be given specific attention in education and training programs. Cultural and linguistic diversity also implies equal access to the means of expression and of dissemination of cultural goods and services. Priority should be given to community-driven initiatives

2.3.1.2 Language

Plurality of languages is at the core of vibrant information and communication societies. ICTs can be applied to bridge cultural and linguistic divides, given the right priorities. In the past, ICT development has too often reinforced inequalities, such as dominance of roman letter based languages (especially English) and marginalization of local, regional and minority languages. Priority should be given in ICT research and development to overcoming barriers and addressing inequalities between languages and cultures .

2.3.1.3 International Law and Regulation

International law and regulation should strengthen cultural, linguistic and media diversity, in accordance with existing international declarations and covenants, in particular Article 19 and

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Articles 19 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and Articles 5 and 6 of the Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity adopted by UNESCO in .2001 International trade agreements should treat culture, including audio-visual content and services, not simply as a commodity, but should take account of the need for cultural, linguistic and media diversity. The establishment of an International Convention on Cultural Diversity should be accelerated, with a view to achieving an effective and binding international agreement. Existing international copyright regulation instruments including TRIPS and WIPO should be reviewed to ensure that they promote cultural, linguistic and media diversity and contribute to the development of human knowledge.

2.3.2 Media

2.3.2.1 The Role of the Media

Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media are central to any conception of information and communication societies. The media is an integral enabling mechanism for a global communications vision. Its role in producing, gathering and distributing diverse content in which all citizens are included and can actively participate, is vital. Especially for the developing countries, broadcast radio and television will continue to be the most effective ways to deliver high-quality information. All forms of media can make crucial contributions to social cohesion and development in the digital era.

Article 19 is the foundation for five regional declarations on media freedom and plurality that must continue to frame the role of the media in all its means of delivery. These texts (3) have been unanimously endorsed by the member states of UNESCO.

Security and other considerations should not be allowed to compromise freedom of expression and media freedom. Media pluralism and diversity should be guaranteed through appropriate laws to avoid excessive media concentration.

Editorial independence of media professionals and creators must be protected and the formulation of professional and ethical standards in journalism and other media production must be the responsibility of media workers themselves. Online authors, journalists and editors should have the same contractual rights and social protections as other media workers. Public service broadcasting has a specific and crucial role to play in ensuring the participation of all in the information and communication societies. State-controlled media should be transformed into editorially independent public service organisations.

2.3.2.2 Community Media

Community media, that is media which are independent, community-driven and civil society-based, have a particular role to play in enabling access to and participation for all in information and communication societies, especially the poorest and most marginalized communities. Community media can be vital enablers of information, voice and capacities for dialogue. Legal and regulatory frameworks that protect and enhance community media are especially critical for ensuring vulnerable groups access to information and communication .

Governments should ensure that legal frameworks for community media are non-discriminatory and provide for equitable allocation of frequencies through transparent and

accountable mechanisms. Targets should be established for the opening up of broadcast licenses to allow for the operation of community broadcasting where this is not currently permitted. Spectrum planning and regulation should ensure sufficient spectrum and channel capacity, and appropriate technical standards, for community media to develop in both the analogue and the digital environment .

A Community Media Fund should be established through a donor civil society partnership to invest in and support community-driven media, information and communication initiatives using traditional media and new ICTs including projects that make provision for the poorest communities, for cultural and linguistic diversity and for the equal participation of women and girls. Community-based media and communication centres should be encouraged and assisted to combine traditional media technologies, including radio and television, with access to new ICTs.

2.3.3 The Public Domain of Global Knowledge

A rich public domain of knowledge available to all is essential to sustainable information societies, to bridge the digital divide and to provide the grounds for a positive development of intellectual creativity, technological innovation and effective use of that technology. In information societies, new digital forms of storing information mean that this can be copied and transmitted in innovative ways that challenge existing customs and laws. The increasing privatisation of knowledge production threatens to restrict the availability of research results. Attempts have been made to commercially exploit traditional indigenous knowledge without consulting the communities, who are the owners of that knowledge.

2.3.3.1 Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge

Indigenous peoples are the guardians of their traditional knowledge and have the right to protect and control that knowledge. Existing intellectual property regimes are insufficient for the protection of indigenous people's cultural and intellectual property rights .

Traditional knowledge should be protected from any attempt at patenting. Indigenous peoples should freely decide whether their heritage should become part of the public domain or not. They should decide whether or not it should be exploited commercially and in what way.

We should give particular attention to measures to maintain knowledge diversity and to protect the cultural, intellectual and so-called natural resources of indigenous peoples, especially botanical and agricultural knowledge, from commercial exploitation and appropriation.

We urge the United Nations to establish specific legal frameworks, in accordance with Article 26.4 of the Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit, to recognise indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and ancestral territories, as a necessary prerequisite to ensure the protection, preservation and development of their traditional knowledge in information and communication societies.

2.3.3.2 Copyright, Patents and Trademarks

Limited intellectual monopolies, also known as intellectual property rights, are granted only for the benefit of society, most notably to encourage creativity and innovation. The benchmark against which they must be reviewed and adjusted regularly is how well they

fulfill this purpose. Today, the vast majority of humankind has no access to the public domain of global knowledge, a situation that is contributing to the growth of inequality and exploitation of the poorest peoples and communities. Yet instead of extending and strengthening the global domain, recent developments are restricting information more and more to private hands. Patents are being extended to software (and even to ideas), with the consequent effect of limiting innovation and reinforcing monopolies. Drugs that could save millions of lives are denied to disease sufferers because pharmaceutical companies that hold the patents resist making them available to those countries that can not pay high prices. Copyright periods have been extended again and again, making them practically indefinite and defeating their original purpose.

2.3.3.3 Software

Software provides the medium and regulatory framework for digital information, and access to software determines who may participate. Equal access to software is fundamental for inclusive and empowering digital information and communication societies, and a diversity of platforms is essential to this.

We must recognise the political and regulatory impact of software on digital societies and build, through public policy and specific programs, awareness of the effects and benefits of different software models. In particular, Free Software, with its freedoms of use for any purpose, study, modification and redistribution should be promoted for its unique social, educational, scientific, political and economic benefits and opportunities. Its special advantages for developing countries, such as low cost, empowerment and the stimulation of sustainable local and regional economies, easier adaptation to local cultures and creation of local language versions, greater security, capacity building, etc, need to be recognised, publicised and taken advantage of. Governments should promote the use of Free Software in schools and higher education and in public administration.

The UN should carry out a fundamental review of the impact on poverty and human rights of current arrangements for recognition and governance of monopolised knowledge and information, including the work of WIPO and the functioning of the TRIPS agreement. Efforts should be made to ensure that limited intellectual monopolies stimulate innovation and reward initiative, rather than keeping knowledge in private hands until it is of little use to society.

2.3.3.4 Research

Increasing private sector participation in scientific research is leading to patents and scientific knowledge being held in private hands instead of being available in the public domain, and increasing competition among scientists and scientific teams sometimes results in poor scientific practices, secrecy and the patenting of discoveries that would previously have been available to all. Research should continue to be based on cooperation, openness and transparency.

Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities, should be able to contribute to enrich the common good of culture and knowledge, by putting into the public domain the results of their publicly funded activities. The public domain of global knowledge should be defended and extended through public policy, awareness-building and investments in programmes. These should ensure that any work funded by public or philanthropic bodies enters the public domain and should increase accessibility of information in online and offline

media by means of Free Documentation, public libraries and other initiatives to disseminate information, such as Open Access journals and Open Archives giving access to scientific and other public domain information. All scientific data, such as genomes of living beings, should be freely accessible to all in Open Access databases.

2.4 Enabling Environment

2.4.1 Ethical Dimensions

Information and communication societies are about how our societies create, share and utilise the information, cultural production and knowledge, which in turn shape the evolution of those societies. The value-base of the information society must be founded on the principles contained in the ensemble of internationally agreed-upon conventions, declarations, and charters.

More specifically, equal, fair and open access to knowledge and information resources أگ , whatever the technical means used to store and transmit them أگ must be established as fundamental principles of such societies. Technological, financial and regulatory considerations must conform to these principles .

Transparent and accountable governance, ethical business and accounting practices in communications sector firms and ethical media practice are of particular relevance in this context. Codes of ethics and standards should be adopted in these cases and mechanisms should be established to monitor their application as well as appropriate sanctions for their violation. Formulation of ethics and standards in journalism and other media production should be the responsibility of media workers themselves.

Respect for diversity must be a central criterion in establishing the principles and mechanisms for resolving conflicts that arise in information societies. Such societies, if they are built on values

such as cooperation, equity, honesty, integrity, respect and solidarity, can have a significant impact on the quality of interaction between cultures and the promotion of meaningful dialogue among civilisations, and thus contribute to bringing about world peace .

2.4.2 Democratic and Accountable Governance

National and international regulations for information and communication societies should be in full compliance with international human rights standards. Openness, transparency, accountability and the rule of law should be the guiding principles for the democratic governance of societies at all levels, from the local to the national and international. Inclusive, participatory and peaceful information and communication societies rest on the responsiveness of governing bodies as well as on the commitment of all actors involved in governance, both of governmental and non governmental nature, to progressively implement greater political, social and economic equity.

A democratic perspective on information and communication societies, in which information is crucial for citizens, is necessary in order to make choices grounded on the awareness of alternatives and opportunities. Information and communication are the foundation for transparency, debate and decision-making. They can contribute to a culture and a practice of cooperation, basis for a renewal of democracy. Information and communication technologies

offer potential benefits to the world•أs communities that will only be exploited if there is a political will to do so .

In this spirit, the aim of WSIS'أ to develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society ,"أand the methods to achieve such a vision, requires shared communication values and mechanisms including the right to communicate, respect for freedom of opinion and expression in all of its dimensions, and a commitment to transparency, accountability, and democracy.

2.4.3 Infrastructure and Access

The dramatic lack of a reliable infrastructure is the main physical obstacle for ICT-based services to be offered to populations living in Africa. Here, the fragmented and incomplete structure and the unreliability of the existing infrastructure and access networks constitute the underlying structure of the so-called Digital Divide .

(Tele) communications infrastructure is essential for disseminating ICT-based services and is central in achieving the goal of universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to and usage of these technologies and services by all. Furthermore, energy is a prerequisite for infrastructure and access.

Most voice, data and Internet traffic between African countries is currently routed outside of the continent because of the lack of an efficient African backbone network, increasing the cost of this traffic. Increased cost always limits access. Existing efforts to build an African network infrastructure must be supported and expanded (e.g. Internet exchange points.

The implementation and roll-out of (tele)communications infrastructure and access in DCs will require financial investments consistent with the huge needs in this area. In order to reduce the amount of financial resources needed, investments should be optimised by consolidating projects nationally or (sub) regionally, and by technological (re-) designing and updating. Furthermore, synergy between different sectors should be systematically exploited from the project phase, particular attention being paid to the energy and transport sectors that show very close links. Finally, the particularly strong synergy and technological similarity between ICT and Radio-TV networks should lead governments and planning authorities to deploy and use a common infrastructure for both their services to be transported and disseminated .

Community telecentres (public access centres) have become spaces for the effective access and strategic use of information and communication technologies with emphasis on the democratisation of communications. Governments should guarantee policies for the development of telecentres, among others, to provide equitable and affordable access to infrastructure and ICTs; to encourage digital inclusion policies for the population, independently of gender, ethnic aspects, language, culture and geographical situation. This would promote the discussion and active participation of communities in public policy processes related to the implementation and role of telecentres for local development .
Orbital satellite paths should be recognised as a public resource and should be allocated to benefit the public interest through transparent and accountable frameworks. Moreover, spectrum planning and regulation should ensure equitable access among a plurality of media

including sufficient satellite capacity reserved for community media. A fixed percentage of orbital resources, satellite capacity and radio frequency spectrum should be reserved for educational, humanitarian, community and other non-commercial use .

The expansion of the global information infrastructure should be based on principles of equality and partnership and guided by rules of fair competition and regulation at both national and international levels .

The integration of access, infrastructure and training of the citizenry and the generation of local content, in a framework of social networks and clear public or private policies, is a key basis for the development of egalitarian and inclusive information societies.

2.4.4 Financing and Infrastructure

Existing and new financing measures should be envisaged and appraised. The" Digital Solidarity Fund "has been proposed by Africa. Such a fund could be a real hope for African peoples if it clearly states its goals, is transparently managed, and aims to foster primarily public services, especially for populations living in underserved and isolated areas. In addition, we stress the significant role that diaspora populations from all the world•s regions can play in financing ICT programmes and projects .

In order to optimise scarce financial resources, appropriate cost-effective technological options should be used, while avoiding duplication of infrastructure. Additionally, synergies between different sectors and networks can be exploited to this end, with particular attention to the energy and transport sectors, given their close links with the telecommunications sector.

A Community Media Fund should be established through a donor civil society partnership to invest in and support community-driven and community-based media, and information and communication initiatives using both traditional media and new ITC•s. Effort should be made to eliminate the duplication of infrastructures and to consolidate projects in a national or regional frame to encourage investment funding. Where possible, ICT and radio/TV networks should use common infrastructure for dissemination .

2.4.5 Human Development Education and Training

Literacy, education and research are fundamental and interrelated components of the information exchanges necessary to build knowledge societies. Knowledge creation and acquisition should be nurtured as a participatory and collective process; it should not be considered a one-way flow or confined to one section of capacity building. Education, in its different components - formal, informal, and lifelong - is fundamental to building democratic societies both by creating a literate citizenry and a skilled workforce .

To utilise the full potential of e-learning and long-distance education, they must be complemented by traditional educational resources and methods, in a local context of media pluralism and linguistic diversity.

Only informed and educated citizens with access to empowering education, a plurality of means of information, and the outputs of research efforts can fully participate in and effectively contribute to knowledge societies. Therefore it is also essential to recognise the

right to education as stated both in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Capacity building initiatives designed to empower individuals and communities in the information society must include, in addition to basic literacy and ICT skills, media and information literacy, the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. In particular, educators, students and researchers must be able to use and develop Free Software, which allows the unfettered ability to study, change, copy, distribute, and run software. Finally, capacity building initiatives should be designed to stimulate the desire for general learning and respond to specific as well as special needs: those of young and elderly people, of women, of people with impairments, of indigenous peoples, of migrant communities, of refugees and returnees in post-conflict situations, in a life-long perspective. Volunteers can help transmit knowledge and enhance capacity, in particular of marginalized groups not reached by government training institutions.

Capacity building in the information and communication societies requires people who are competent in teaching media and communication literacy. Therefore training of trainers and training of educators in every level is equal important in order to reach out to people at the limits of the information society.

Libraries are an important tool to fight digital divide and to ensure continuous, out-of-market-ruled access to information, by freeing the results of research funded by public support, by sharing content and educational materials to promote literacy, build capacities and bring autonomy to learners of all kinds, world wide. This also entails convincing content producers to be active participants in the open access paradigm of knowledge.

Global barriers to knowledge and education must be transparently evaluated by looking beyond technological obstacles at legal and institutional gridlocks (like Intellectual Property Laws and International standards) and promoting a new balance of intellectual properties as a common ground for creators to protect their works and for civil society to benefit from their contributions.

Civil society sees the need for alternative models for the production and exchange of knowledge and information. To secure and finance the global knowledge commons, civil society actors support new open and self-organised publishing models in science and software production and community-based communications, with in-built maintenance programs and upgrading capacities.

2.4.6 Information Generation and Knowledge Development

Research must be promoted in all fields related to the information and communication societies, and its development must be sensitive to the social uses of ICTs. In particular, research on community informatics must be supported(4). This would include the development of a research agenda among practitioners, scholars, and communities; the cataloguing of community informatics projects and identification of both factors for failure and success; and support for research projects and systems trials. Fundamental research should be strengthened by expanding open access to primary scientific data and publications. Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities should foster independent investigation, build a pluralistic body of knowledge and promote the results of

activities which have been funded by public money. This body of knowledge should be made available in all public spaces, or spaces with public access (community centres, universities, schools, museums, libraries, media centres ,and other dedicated entities), through appropriate and plural modes of access, avoiding the risk of high dependency on digital technology alone.

2.4.7 Global Governance of ICT and Communications

International "rules of the game" play an increasingly central role in the global information economy. In recent years, governments have liberalised traditional international regulatory regimes for telecommunications, radio frequency spectrum, and satellite services, and have created new multilateral arrangements for international trade in services, intellectual property, "information security," and electronic commerce. At the same time, business groups have established a variety of "self-regulatory" arrangements concerning Internet identifiers (names and numbers), infrastructure, and content.

It is not acceptable for these and related global governance frameworks to be designed by and for small groups of powerful governments and companies and then exported to the world as faits accomplis. Instead, they must reflect the diverse views and interests of the international community as a whole. This overarching principle has both procedural and substantive dimensions.

Procedurally, decision-making processes must be based on such values as inclusive participation, transparency, and democratic accountability. In particular, institutional reforms are needed to facilitate the full and effective participation of marginalized stakeholders like developing and transitional countries, global civil society organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, and individual users.

Substantively, global governance frameworks must promote a more equitable distribution of benefits across nations and social groups. To do so, they must strike a better balance between commercial considerations and other legitimate social objectives. For example, existing international arrangements should be reformed to promote: efficient management of network interconnections and traffic revenue distribution, subject to the mutual agreement of corresponding operators; equitable allocations of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbital slots that fully support developmental and non-commercial applications; fair trade in electronic goods and services, taking into account the developing countries' need for special and differential treatment; an open public domain of information resources and ideas; and the protection of human rights, consumer safety, and personal privacy. In parallel, new diverse international arrangements are needed to promote: financial support for sustainable e-development, especially but not only in less affluent nations; linguistic, cultural, and informational diversity; and the curtailment of concentrated market power in ICT and mass media industries.

In light of the relevant controversies in the WSIS process, special attention must be given to improving the global coordination of the Internet's underlying resources. It must be remembered that the Internet is not a singular communications "platform" akin to a public telephone network; it is instead a highly distributed set of protocols, processes, and voluntarily self-associating networks. Accordingly, the Internet cannot be governed effectively by any one organisation or set of interests. An exclusionary intergovernmental model would be especially ill suited to its unique characteristics; only a truly open,

multistakeholder, and flexible approach can ensure the Internet's continued growth and transition into a multilingual medium. In parallel, when the conditions for system stability and sound management can be guaranteed, authority over inherently global resources like the root servers should be transferred to a global, multistakeholder entity.

The international community must have full and easy access to knowledge and information about ICT global governance decision making. This is a baseline prerequisite for implementation of the principles mentioned above, and indeed for the success of the WSIS process itself. We need public-interest oriented monitoring and analysis of the relevant activities of both intergovernmental and "self-governance" bodies including, inter alia, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Trade Organization ,the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Conference on International Trade Law, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Hague Conference on International Private Law, the of Europe, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and Wassenaar Arrangement.

As a viable first step in this direction, we recommend the establishment of an independent and truly multistakeholder observatory committee to: (1) map and track the most pressing current developments in ICT global governance decision-making; (2) assess and solicit stakeholder input on the conformity of such decision-making with the stated objectives of the WSIS agenda; and (3) report to all stakeholders in the WSIS process on a periodic basis until 2005, at which time a decision could be made on whether to continue or terminate the activity .

3. Conclusion

It is people who primarily form and shape societies, and information and communication societies are no exception. Civil society actors have been key innovators and shapers of the technology, culture and content of information and communication societies ,and will continue to be in the future.

Human rights stand at the centre of our vision of the information and communication society.(5) From this standpoint, action plans, implementation, financing mechanisms and governance must all be shaped by and evaluated on the basis of their ability to meet life-critical human needs .

Host countries and institutions contributing to and participating in the post-Geneva WSIS process should fully respect the principles enunciated in the Declaration adopted at the Geneva Summit, including those relating to human rights that are fundamental to the information and communications society. These include, but are not limited to the freedoms of expression, association and information.

Toward this end, and in preparation for the second phase of WSIS, an independent commission should be established to review national and international ICT regulations and practices and their compliance with international human rights standards. This commission should also address the potential applications of ICTs to the realization of human rights, such as the right to development, the right to education and the right to a standard of living

adequate for the mental and physical health and well-being of the individual and his or her family, including food, housing and medical care.

The full realisation of a just information society requires the full participation of civil society in its conception, implementation, and operation. To this end, we call on all governments involved in the preparatory processes of WSIS to work in good faith with non-governmental and civil society organisations and fully honour the recommendations of Resolution 56/183 of the United Nations General Assembly. In particular, participating governments must honour civil society's right to participate fully in the remaining intergovernmental preparatory processes leading to the second phase of WSIS.

We commit ourselves أگ independent of the modalities of participation granted to us by governments أگ to pursuing by all just and honourable means necessary the realization of the vision of the information society presented herein. To this end, civil society organisations will continue to cooperate with one another to develop a Plan of Action for the second phase of WSIS. We call upon the world's leaders to urgently assume the heavy responsibilities they face, in partnership with civil society, to make this vision a reality.

Endorsements of this declaration are being compiled at ct-endorse@wsis-cs.org and archived on http://www.wsis-cs.org .

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(1) Version with corrections: 12-12-2003

(2) There is no single information, communication or knowledge society: there are, at the local, national and global levels, possible future societies; moreover, considering communication is a critical aspect of any information society, we use in this document the phrase"أ information and communication societies ".أFor consistency with previous WSIS language, we retain the use of the phrase"أ Information Society "أwhen directly referencing WSIS.

(3) In this document, we use the term "Free Software" to refer to the specific concept defined by the Free Software Foundation. Free Software is software that is licensed in such a way that people have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve it. Free Software implies access to source code as does "open source software"; however, open source software as the term is popularly used is not necessarily Free Software in our definition. Some organisations release open source software without permitting all of these actions. See http://www.fsf.org and http://www.fsfeurope.org for in-depth discussions of this concept.

The Windhoek Declaration on the Promotion of Free and Pluralistic African (4) dna tnednepednI gnitomorP no atA amlA fo noitaralceD eht ;1991Press,

•أSana fo noitaralceD eht ;1992Pluralistic Asian Media, a on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media, 19 ;94the Sofia Declaration on Promoting European Pluralistic and Independent Media, 1997 (adopted in 95 and 97)

(5) Community informatics refers here to the interdisciplinary study and practice of the design, implementation, and management of information and communication technologies developed by communities to solve their own problems. This field takes into account social science research about the social impacts of ICTs -- also known as social informatics -- as well as information and communication systems analysis and design techniques.

(6) Nothing in this declaration may be interpreted as implying that civil society wishes to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Rights and other human rights treaties.

http://www.wsis-cs.org/