

Findings Report:

The Media Freedom Cohort

The Summit for Democracy 2023

March 2023

Acknowledgments

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The views expressed in this publication in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of any individual partner or government.



Government of the Netherlands

Canada



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Introduction

In late 2021, U.S. President Biden hosted the [Summit for Democracy](#), at which countries from around the world gathered and pledged concrete actions to advance democracy at home and abroad.

“Democracy’s Year of Action” followed, with governments and civil society groups working together to lead and convene Democracy Cohorts in advance of the second Summit for Democracy in 2023. The second summit will highlight progress against commitments made in the first summit, as well as new commitments to advance democracy by a wider array of stakeholders.

These broadened commitments were the focus of the **Media Freedom Cohort**, co-led by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands and international NGO Internews.

The initial Summit for Democracy resulted in numerous commitments to advancing media freedom. Knowing that the health of independent media does not rest with governments or civil society alone, the Media Freedom Cohort brought together media and other private sector leaders, philanthropic partners, academics, civil society actors and government decision-makers, with a shared commitment to making concrete progress in improving media freedom. Members of the cohort include 28 governments and 117 civil society organizations, philanthropies, and businesses.

The Media Freedom Cohort recognizes that media, the business community, philanthropy, government, and civil society all have unique roles in supporting and advancing media freedom.

The focus of this cohort was twofold: to learn and be inspired by the actions of others, and to maximize commitments of concrete action. This approach was intentionally “big tent”, built on the belief that meaningful action by a wide and growing range of stakeholders will result in significant progress for media freedom.

The work was guided by three principles:

1. The Media Freedom Cohort recognizes that commitments can be made at the **domestic/national level or as part of international engagement** and will encourage multi-stakeholder participation at either level in three priority areas.
2. By participating in this cohort, stakeholders will demonstrate progress in achieving commitments from the first summit and/or make new and concrete commitments

that lead to **measurable and systemic** progress in improving media freedom in one or more of the three priority areas.

3. To ensure an inclusive process, the media cohort will be open to every country, organization or other stakeholder participating in the Summit for Democracy process and wishing to make a substantive commitment to improving media freedom during the year of action.

Working Groups

Based on the media freedom pledges made at the first summit, the co-leads of the Media Freedom Cohort organized the cohort's work in three priority issue areas, or Working Groups. Each working group is co-led by a government, or governments, plus a civil society group that represents a broader group of civil society organizations in each area.

1. **Protecting Journalists' Safety & Security:** Digital, physical and psycho-social safety measures, insurance and legal assistance, designed to protect journalists and other media workers.

Co-led by the Government of Germany and civil society partners, the ACOS Alliance and IFEX

2. **Advancing Freedom of Expression:** Legal and regulatory reforms that protect freedom of expression, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Co-led by the Government of Liberia and civil society partners the High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

3. **Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media:** Building funding models, industry standards and public policies that support the resilience and professional capacities of media outlets to survive and thrive in the coming decades.

Co-led by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and civil society partner the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

Issues in Focus

The connecting tissue between the preservation and support for democracy and media freedom are vast. According to an analysis done by International IDEA, of the 59 countries submitting written commitments related to media at the first summit, 24 committed to strengthening media freedom, independence and pluralism at home, while 19 countries made commitments to strengthen it abroad, and 11 countries made media freedom-related commitments both at home and abroad.¹

Table 1. Mapping commitments on media freedom at the first Summit for Democracy

Focus of commitments	At home	Abroad
Support, strengthen and safeguard media vibrancy, independence and freedom, and the safety of journalists	Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, USA, Zambia	Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA
Support media pluralism and diversify the media landscape, including hearing from women, minorities and journalists in exile	Australia, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, Montenegro, Slovakia, Sweden, Taiwan, Ukraine, USA	
Support and strengthen the accountability, transparency and sustainability of news media	Australia, Denmark, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, UK, USA	

Source: Data compiled by International IDEA

Expanding on the first Summit for Democracy, the Media Freedom Cohort organized, via Working Groups, around three issue areas of particular focus.

The civil society organizations leading each working group brought decades of experience, advocating for change and implementing programs to strengthen and sustain the practice of independent media, drew on their own work to suggest and model ways within these areas that governments could revise and build upon their commitments in the first summit, and ways that businesses, including media and technology leaders, and civil society organizations, could complement and expand upon those efforts.

¹ “Unpacking the Summit for Democracy Commitments.” 2022. International IDEA. <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/unpacking-summit-democracy-commitments>.

1. Protecting Journalists' Safety & Security:

Digital, physical, and psycho-social safety measures, insurance and legal assistance, designed to protect journalists and other media workers.

In order for democracy to thrive, society needs journalists and media professionals who can carry out their work of delivering public-interest news and information that is timely, accurate and independent for the purpose of empowering citizens to participate actively in civic life and to hold governmental institutions accountable for their actions. Similarly, democratic civic space must be healthy, vibrant, and protected for journalists and media professionals to be able to carry out their work in safety.

Journalists' safety and security is a prerequisite for professional and independent journalism, a backbone to democracy. Journalists need access to the right protection mechanisms and support so risks and threats can be mitigated or avoided, and can receive meaningful help when in a crisis or emergency.

Working Group 1 highlighted priority areas within the area of safety and security in which stakeholders could formulate concrete pledges:

- **Support for journalists in exile**, e.g. governments supporting emergency visas, fast-tracking visa applications, resettlement assistance and protection from extra-territorial threats. News organizations offering resettlement assistance and support journalistic work abroad. Funders committing mid- and long-term flexible funding.
- **Support for women journalists and those from vulnerable contexts**, e.g. governments, news organizations, funders and tech platforms pledging funding and/or delivery of training and capacity-building for relevant stakeholders on non-discrimination and gender-sensitive safety approaches news organizations developing and implementing newsroom anti-harassment policies and protection practices; tech platforms could support women and vulnerable journalists to access tools and resources that would allow effective management of their safety etc.
- **Mechanisms for the prevention and protection of attacks against journalists at the national level**, e.g. governments and funders develop, fund and support monitoring and reporting initiatives that meaningfully include local CSO data and input, national protection programmes and/or action plans, special investigative units, etc.
- **Support for civil society initiatives to protect journalists**, e.g. governments and

fundings pledging flexible and multi-year funding to CSOs that are assisting journalists at risk by bolstering protections and improving the safety and security of journalists

- **Support for journalists facing high risks because of their work**, e.g. news organizations providing or supporting access to relevant safety and first aid training programmes, to insurance, to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or other relevant safety equipment, and secure timely payments (as established in the Freelance Journalists Safety Principles). Governments leveraging diplomatic networks to defend and protect journalists under threat, etc.
- **Support for journalist safety at the international level**, e.g. governments strengthening implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity, including by committing to steps outlined by civil society in a recent Call to Action, making long-term contributions to global funding initiatives (such as the Global Media Defense Fund and International Fund for Public Interest Media), strengthening and supporting international standards related to the safety of journalists, as well as implementing these at the national-level.
- **Establish and strengthen digital protections and safety mechanisms for journalists**, e.g. governments and tech platforms regulating digital surveillance technologies commonly abused to target journalists; news organizations, tech platforms and CSOs developing early warning/rapid response mechanisms to address online violence (particularly online gender-based violence); news organizations developing and implementing safety policies, protocols and procedures to tackle online violence, including relevant training; tech platforms and funders supporting efforts to address online violence by funding safety training, research and the creation of relevant resources.
- **Support for the psychological safety of all journalists and media workers**, e.g. news organizations embedding psychological safety across safety and security measures, offer relevant and timely support to those in need of professional help; tech platforms investing resources and funding to support psychological safety, etc.

2. Advancing Freedom of Expression:

Legal and regulatory reforms that protect freedom of expression, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Freedom of Expression is a fundamental right that is essential for the development of democratic societies. Enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it serves as the foundation for other human rights:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Freedom of expression is inseparably linked with plural and democratic societies, where citizens are free to express their opinion and receive information and respect others' opinions. The media, often described as 'the watchdogs of democracy,' is a vital institution to a free society which seeks to inform the public about matters in their interest, demand accountability and highlight democratic deficits.

Working Group 2 worked with states and other stakeholders to reflect the enabling right to freedom of expression by advancing best practices and commitments for legal and regulatory reforms that protect freedom of expression and media freedom focused on openness, transparency and accountability in democratic societies.

These include initiatives that can be taken by governments to ensure existing international obligations relating to media freedom are upheld; disseminate opinions advising on model legislation to promote and protect a vibrant free press; and report on means of raising the cost to those who target journalists for their work.

Recommendations from [four advisory reports](#) produced by the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom and developed following extensive consultation, request action from states to promote and protect a vibrant free press and ensure the safety of journalists.

The introduction of commitments to legal reform in priority thematic areas focus on tangible reforms addressing:

- Laws designating 'foreign agents' which target both foreign media outlets and as well

as independent, domestic media

- Repeal of laws criminalizing defamation and the introduction of laws to deal with the issue of SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation). SLAPPs focused on defamation charges are frequently used to discourage journalists from advancing their work by preventing the publication or removal of certain content and discouraging others from covering the same issues.
- The use of cyber tools, such as spyware and other surveillance technology, has been weaponized by governments and criminal actors alike to track, target, and silence journalists and other human rights defenders.

As legal policies and regulation touch on all aspects of media freedom, there are a diverse set of topics which CSO advocates and reform-minded governments can address, including:

- Access to information. 130 countries in the world already have Access to Information (ATI) laws, which connect to tenets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet many laws are still in development, struggle in implementation, or are weak and in need of reinforcement.
- Cybersecurity laws. Cyber issues include surveillance technology weaponized against journalists, but also a growing number of countries considering provisions regulating online speech and online platforms, and users' rights on various platforms.
- Digitalization and evolution of broadcasting regulation. Many countries are now in the process of digitalization of "traditional" broadcasting as well as facing regulatory challenges deriving from emerging new audiovisual services such as OTT and user-generated content. This creates the need for relevant legal challenges and adaptation of the regulatory framework.

3. Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media:

Building funding models, industry standards and public policies that support the resilience and professional capacities of media outlets to survive and thrive in the coming decades.

Democracy, human rights, and sustainable development benefit from a pluralistic and well-informed public sphere underpinned by free, independent, and viable public-interest media and journalism.

Independent media — the kind that provides an essential public service — has been in decline for more than a decade. Approximately 85 percent of the world’s population experienced a decline in press freedom in their country between 2016 and 2020.² The complex driving forces of this decline are well documented in recent reports such as the V-Dem Institute’s Annual Democracy Report,³ UNESCO’s 2021/2022 Global Report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development,⁴ and the Forum on Information and Democracy’s A New Deal for Journalism.⁵

A collapse of the traditional journalistic business model,⁶ growing political polarization, democratic backsliding (including suppression of independent journalism), and the added burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to a potential “media extinction event.”⁷

The evidence shows that a well-functioning independent media system is critical to sustainable social and economic development, and a bulwark of peaceful, economically prosperous societies. Greater citizen engagement,⁸ stronger accountability,⁹ lower corruption,¹⁰ and

2 UNESCO. 2022. Journalism Is a Public Good: World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Global Report 2021/2022. Paris: UNESCO

3 https://www.v-dem.net/democracy_reports.html

4 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379826>

5 https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ForumID_New-Deal-for-Journalism_16Jun21.pdf

6 <https://pressgazette.co.uk/report-predicts-five-years-of-steep-global-decline-for-newspaper-industry-revenue-print-and-online/>

7 <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/craigsilverman/coronavirus-news-industry-layoffs>

8 Larizza, M. (2017). World Bank World Development Report (Spotlight 12: The Media).

9 See, for example, Groves, D. W., Grossman, G., Humphreys, M., Jatieh, S., Marshall, J., Riaz, Z., Slough, T., & Wilke, A. (2022). Media and Accountability in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes Latest Version.; and Reinikka, R., and Svensson, J. 2005. Fighting corruption to improve schooling: Evidence from a newspaper campaign in Uganda. Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol. 3, No. 2–3, pp. 259–6.

10 See, for instance, Freille, S., Haque, M.E., and Kneller, R. 2007. A contribution to the empirics of press freedom and corruption. European Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 23, No. 23, pp. 838–62; and Brunetti, A., & Weder, B. (2003). A free press is bad news for corruption. Journal of Public Economics, 87(7–8).

better policies are all attributable to the presence of professional news media.

Implications of digital convergence for independent media are only now being fully understood: the damaging effects on the business model, public attention and trust, and journalist safety and security. Amid these trends, and within the context of resurgent authoritarianism, the media development community has also turned increasingly towards the laws, policies, and market regulations that will be required to make independent news media more resilient.

Business models for independent media have been in flux for decades, as the information age has reshaped how audiences access, understand, and support the media they consume. The mere existence of the vital role of independent media in democracy is out of reach when independent media cannot operate sustainably.

In Working Group 3, Media Freedom Cohort stakeholders from government, civil society, and the private sector have come together to articulate their commitments towards the Cohort's priority area of "Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media," with ambitious plans to build funding models, industry standards, political will, and public policies that support the resilience and professional capacities of media outlets to survive and thrive in the coming decades.

Several members of the group have committed to developing media in underserved communities, communities in conflict prone societies, and countries in transition. Many others also highlighted the relationship between media pluralism, media diversity, and representation and the sustainability of and trust in journalism.

Recognizing that the sustainability of public interest journalism and local news media is at an inflection point, and new and creative approaches are needed to address existing challenges, the proposed commitments offer a glimpse into the dynamic discussions on some of the most important issues facing the survival of the news media today.

Innovative Solutions

Collected in full in [Annex I](#), commitments made by Media Freedom Cohort members during the Summit for Democracy's Year of Action span efforts by governments, businesses and civil society organizations.

With an emphasis on commitments that were innovative in approach, focused on measurable outcomes, or models for replication, the following is a selection of exemplary commitments received. The full text of these commitments, including plans for measurement and completion, can be read in the Annex.

WORKING GROUP 1

1. Protecting Journalists' Safety & Security:

The following Working Group 1 commitments highlight the diversity of approaches from the wide range of essential stakeholders that are needed to ensure the safety and protection of journalists — governments, civil society, news organizations and tech companies.

These pledges respond to the priority areas identified by Working Group 1, and are holistic and ambitious, yet grounded within concrete and actionable deliverables, and timelines. They are responsive to the scope of contexts and challenges threatening the safety of journalists, including digital attacks, conflict and crises, election cycles, and gendered violence. Together, they represent positive models that can inspire others, as well as the systemic nature of both the problem and solutions required.

The Government of Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Commitment

Norway commits to:

- Implement the "Strategy for promoting freedom of expression in Norwegian foreign and development policy."
- Support UNESCO's mandate to promote freedom of expression and the safety of journalists through voluntary, flexible funding of NOK 52 million for UNESCO's programme 2022-2025.
- Ensure that all Norwegian support to media development and the safety of journalists involves women's meaningful participation and protects their safety online and offline.

- Contribute to coordinated and effective efforts by governments, the media and civil society organisations in supporting media development and the safety of journalists.

Maharat Foundation

Commitment

Commit to train at least 50 journalists on non-discrimination and gender-sensitive approaches within our national initiative to reform media laws in Lebanon by the end of 2023, while addressing online violence particularly online gender-based violence through monitoring and engagement with various stakeholders including tech platforms and the state to develop rapid response mechanisms.

The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AIJ Indonesia)

Commitment

AJI Indonesia commits to actively monitor the journalist safety situation and independent media in Southeast Asia. AJI is collaborating with 6 journalist organizations to provide a monitoring platform on journalist safety in Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and Timor Leste. AJI Indonesia also have a huge commitment to strengthen journalist safety program such as to provide several journalist safety trainings, paralegal trainings, networking with 40 pro bono lawyers, safety fund, and create a guideline to handling sexual violence.

Safety of Journalists Coalition (SoJ Coalition)¹¹

Commitment

The ICSO SoJ Coalition pledges to support the implementation of the 2022 Vienna Call for Action. The Vienna Call for Action covers six sub-themes around protecting journalists' safety and security: gender; monitoring attacks; national safety mechanisms; impunity; digital threats; and the overall effectiveness of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Members commit to engaging with relevant States and UN actors bringing their expertise built upon decades of experience supporting or advocating for independent public interest journalism and their direct connection to media outlets and freelancers operating in the most challenging contexts across the globe to help ensure effective implementation of

11 The organizations part of the International Civil Society Coalition on the Safety of Journalists are : ACOS Alliance, ARTICLE 19, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), Freedom House, Fundacion para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), IFEX, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Media Support (IMS), International News Safety Institute (INSI), International Women Media Foundation (IWMF), Internews, International Press Institute (IPI), IREX, Media Foundation for West African (MFWA), Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), Open Society Foundations (OSF), PEN America, PEN International, Rory Peck Trust (RPT), Reporters sans Frontières (RSF), Samir Kassir Foundation (SKeyes Center).

the recommendations.

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Commitment

AFP is pledging to follow and manage even more closely the protection and safety of journalists in the field with the appointment this year of a new editor-in-chief in charge of the safety of journalists, staff and freelancers. This is especially true following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine where dozens of special envoys were sent.

In addition, AFP will focus more on the psychological aftermath of the teams working in difficult conditions, especially in Ukraine (in the field and in the Kiev office) and in Russia and Poland, where there are strong pressures on colleagues.

The New York Times

Commitment

The New York Times is committed to fostering a culture of newsroom safety. Our approach is a holistic one, which encompasses physical and digital safety, as well as psychological support. We pledge to continue working to the highest standards of journalists' safety, including adapting our internal safety protocols and processes and addressing current and new threats.

The Associated Press

Commitment

To build a news-led strategy to ensure that staff safety is at the heart of our coverage decisions while shoring up our operational defenses against a complex and evolving cyber threat. That means training and equipping front-line staff, but also changing the culture of the organization so that we look at all of our journalism through a security lens from planning through to publication and beyond. To raise awareness of risk around the world, senior managers will continue to build external networks of officials, diplomats and other influencers so that we know, in times of crisis, who to call. We will also redouble efforts to work with peer news organizations to share intelligence.

Google

Commitment

Google and Jigsaw are committed to the safety of journalists through our products, programs and training initiatives such as Advanced Protection Program, Project Shield and Jigsaw's Perspective, Outline, and Harassment Manager (which supports partner NGOs' tools such as TRFilter and FeedShield).

Microsoft

Commitment

Microsoft's Democracy Forward team is excited to update on our commitment to working with local journalists worldwide to improve their understanding of digital safety and cybersecurity. In 2022, Microsoft partnered with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) to expand a training curriculum on abuse of state resources in elections for investigative journalists. The training was piloted in October 2022 in Tunisia and November 2022 in Serbia among 29 local journalists, and focused on digital safety to help journalists map personal risks, cybersecurity to defend themselves online, and strengthening journalists' capacity for safely investigating state abuse of public resources.

WORKING GROUP 2

2. Advancing Freedom of Expression:

Our aim through Working Group 2 has been to steer stakeholders to implement legal reform for the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression. In order to do so, we have highlighted the recommendations made by the High Level Panel, as well as take steps towards legal reform which allows for the full enjoyment of the right to free expression. On this basis, we expect the outcomes of this working group to be in part 1) measuring progress of commitments made at the first 2021 US Summit and 2) focused on areas for new commitments.

We have been asking CSO members of Working Group 2, if interested, to focus their commitments on areas of legal reform which reflect their existing work and organisational strategy in holding states accountable. This includes implementation of the advice contained within the High Level Panel's four advisory reports on the enforcement of international human rights norms, to which many of the CSO members of Working Group 2 have endorsed. We have also encouraged all stakeholders to consider other key areas of legal reform that the High Level Panel is focused on, including with Media Freedom Coalition member states:

1. Cyber-targeting and surveillance of journalists
2. Use of SLAPPs against the Media
3. Adoption of 'Foreign agent' laws utilised to stifle freedom of expression

Many of the commitments focus on priority areas for the High Level Panel, offering solutions to support law-makers, hold them accountable, or when made by states, to implement and advance legal reform. In the mirroring of these commitments, there are opportunities

for Governments to work closely with experts, such as the independent advisory body the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, and civil society, who actively monitor and document challenges to media freedom, to ensure that their proposed domestic legal reforms conform to international standards.

Commitments focused on legal and regulatory reform:

- **Via the implementation of High Level Panel recommendations:**
 - ▶ Safe refuge: Committee to Protect Journalists committed to advocating advancing the implementation of the High Level Panel's recommendation on [Providing Safe Refuge to Journalists at Risk](#), for States to adopt legal reform to enact an emergency visa for journalists at risk.
 - ▶ Targeted sanctions: The Czech Republic, having recently adopted Magnitsky legislation, committed to utilising the legislation to provide accountability for crimes against journalists, in line with the High Level Panel's recommendations on [The Use of Targeted Sanctions to Protect Journalists](#).
- **Digital surveillance and technology:** The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has committed to combatting 'technology facilitated gender-based violence' through being a member of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, and funding the second phase of research to develop an early warning system for women journalists at risk of online violence. Article 19 also mirrored this commitment and concern for the need for legal reform to combat impunity for the use of 'illegal surveillance and spyware against journalists and human rights defenders, by strengthening their efforts to improve international protection.
- **Anti-SLAPP:** The UK FCDO has committed to moving decisively to stamp out SLAPPs, by 'introducing a new early dismissal procedure that would allow the judiciary to identify and dispose of unmeritorious claims at the earliest opportunity, before prohibited costs are incurred.' Article 19 mirrored the concern with the need for anti-SLAPP legislation to commit to expanding its 'policy and advocacy work in tackling abusive litigation or SLAPPs.' The Media Law Resource Centre also committed to 'advancing efforts to protect human rights involving freedom of expression and access to information through the adoption of anti-SLAPP laws and other measures' through their work. The Thomson Reuters Foundation has also committed 'to building on existing legal programming to expand access to legal support for journalists and independent media organizations in need, to help protect and defend them from the growing legal threats used to silence or punish their reporting on matters of public interest.'

- **Freedom of Information: The Government of Malta committed to the modernisation of the Freedom of Information Portal for ‘a more efficient administration of FOI requests.’** The Panos Institute committed to holding the Government of Zambia accountable to implementing its Freedom of Information Legislation, in a manner that is compatible with international standards.
- **Integrity of Information:** The Media Alliance of Zimbabwe, Media Monitoring Africa, IREX and Gulliver Projects also draw on the theme of enhancing the integrity of information, and access to information, by calling for reform to tackle disinformation and address access by enhancing media and online literacy.

Other key areas that came through in the commitments are:

- **Strengthening advocacy through coordination (through multilateral engagement, including via the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC)):** Media Alliance of Zimbabwe committed to ‘building synergies with other press freedom advocates, raise public awareness on their rights and to provide the necessary support technical or otherwise in realizing freedom of expression.’ The Czech Republic drew on its role on the Executive Group of the MFC to commit to ‘closer engagement within the MFC’. The UK FCDO has also committed to ‘elevating the issue of internet shutdowns and restrictions on the international policy agenda, highlighting their impact on journalists and media workers’, through chairing the Taskforce on Internet Shutdowns of the Freedom Online Coalition.
 - ▶ The Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Information and Communications, has committed to setting up coordination mechanisms and task forces on the safety of journalists, ‘covering government institutions, media and civil society in Sierra Leone.’

Featured commitments which emanate the key elements of being targeted, time-bound, measurable and implementable:

Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Continue our engagement in the Media Freedom Coalition and active membership of its Executive Group, i.e. by coordinating activities in Belarus and Vietnam.

Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Contribute to the freedom of expression and safety of journalists and accountability of the

perpetrators of crimes against them by applying the newly established National Sanction Mechanism.

Committee to Protect Journalists

Commitment

Governments play a critical role in ensuring the safe and successful relocation of journalists at risk. Since the creation of CPJ's Journalist Assistance program in 2001, the single most common request for support has been for emergency relocation. CPJ will work in partnership with other groups and at least three governments to ensure the creation of permanent frameworks for journalists' safe refuge that can be scaled up in response to crises. We will produce reporting and public dialogue to advance recommendations in line with those by the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom.

ARTICLE 19

Commitment

1. ARTICLE 19 will expand its policy and advocacy work in tackling abusive litigation or SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation) to ensure that comprehensive measures against SLAPPs are adopted on national, international and regional levels (in particular in Europe and Latin America).
2. ARTICLE 19 will strengthen the efforts to improve international protection against deployment of illegal surveillance and spyware against journalists and human rights defenders, and the efforts to combat impunity for such surveillance, including through strategic litigation.

Panos Institute Southern Africa

Commitment

We commit to continue to lobby the Government of the Republic of Zambia to enact the Access to Information law by the first half year of 2023, and put in place practical systems and structures to facilitate its effective implementation once enacted.

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Commitment

The Thomson Reuters Foundation commits to building on existing legal programming to expand access to legal support for journalists and independent media organizations in need, to help protect and defend them from the growing legal threats used to silence or punish their reporting on matters of public interest. The Thomson Reuters Foundation also commits

to raising global awareness of the increasing array of sweeping and repressive legislative, regulatory and other legal threats to media freedom.

WORKING GROUP 3

3. Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media:

Working Group 3 commitments offer a range of solutions from around the world that seek to help media grow audiences, diversify and expand their revenue streams, and improve their abilities to effectively deliver information in the public interest, in a rapidly transforming news media landscape. Some of the commitments are global in scope; others regional or local; all are ambitious in their intended impact. All have potential to scale up or be game-changing.

They include:

Fostering access to new revenue streams for independent media:

- Several donors have made financial commitments to the **International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM)**¹², a new independent, multilateral initiative dedicated to supporting independent journalism and the provision of trustworthy information around the globe. IFPIM is backed by a growing global coalition and is financially supported by 15 donors to date, including the governments of the US, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Taiwan, New Zealand, Sweden and Estonia; private philanthropies such as the Ford Foundation, Luminate and Craig Newmark; and corporate actors such as Google. IFPIM has just signed its first grant agreements with independent media organizations from Brazil, Colombia, Nepal, Niger, South Africa, and Ukraine as part of its inaugural pilot funding round.
- Other donors are making **additional finance** available for media development. The Government of Germany committed additional funding for three projects. The Media Development Investment Fund announced additional finance for their Pluralis programme which seeks to support media pluralism and help secure the editorial independence of media in Central, Eastern and South Eastern European countries.
- Civil society organizations are advocating new models for public investment in media, including Free Press Action Fund's commitment to grow community-centered journalism in five US states and cities.

12 <https://ifpim.org/>

Improving the effectiveness of media development assistance: The Media Freedom Coalition's Media Development Working Group, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the United Kingdom, the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) have committed to advancing their engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee's Network on Governance (GovNet) to update the existing media assistance **principles**¹³ so they better respond to the current context, and include a more operational focus. This is in line with a GovNet commitment in its programme of work 2023-2024.

Collaboration and collective action: Several commitments recognize the need for news publishers to work together to find context-sensitive solutions, commitments, and learn from cross-border experiences to enhance the regulatory systems that give the news media a fighting chance.

- The Eastern Africa Editors' Society will mentor and collaborate with journalist associations and other media support organizations in the Eastern Africa region.
- Free Press Unlimited has committed to continue fostering cross-border collaborations between networks of journalists to share insights on improving their business models, resilience and viability.

Embracing new technologies in line with international human rights and freedom of expression standards and frameworks: Governments and NGOs are building new digital tools to help media operate more effectively in the most challenging circumstances.

- Germany's support for New Open Source Software Colmena allows newsrooms to plan, record, edit and publish radio broadcasts and news texts on their smartphone.
- IREX is committing to advancing media sustainability through advanced analytics, equipping 50% of new media partners with the tools to facilitate data-driven decision-making in at least 25 countries by 2028.

Adopting hybrid approaches to how audiences receive information: As many parts of the world are still not online, and even when connected, new digital technologies create gaps and inequalities as to access to media and information support to independent public interest television and radio should not be overlooked.

- Fondation Hironnelle supports hybrid approaches to providing access to reliable

13 Renewing Principles on Effective Support to Journalism and Media — Statement calling for engagement by the Summit for Democracy and the Media Freedom Coalition https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VXZKXTAJz32jW_29p1Dloc7OLtwjvv0gAZFym2ep81o/edit?usp=sharing

information across all platforms, off-line and on-line, primarily responding to the local technical and socio-economic capacities of the audiences.

Leading brands supporting journalism: Advocating for the importance of leading brands supporting trusted information and defunding misinformation, disinformation and bad actors in the markets they serve, Internews' **Ads for News**, in cooperation with Cohort members GroupM (part of WPP), GFMD, and WAN-IFRA has developed a model for identifying trusted, local media that is now being used at scale in online advertising. WPP, the world's largest marketing and communications company, supported by its media arm — GroupM, committed to offering these 'inclusion lists' to their clients and drive industry awareness of the importance of investing in responsible journalism, while Globe Telecom, Inc. committed to spending on the initiative's Philippines list, recognising journalism as "a chronicle of truth, a source of quality and useful information that could help communities realize their full potential." Brands4News has also committed to integrating such lists into media planning processes for agency networks and large advertiser brands.

Sharing experience and learning: Overall, the Media Freedom Cohort's commitments aspire to stimulate measurable and replicable systemic change, recognizing that there are many actors working in isolation around the world on some of these common problems and that they need to share their knowledge and experience.

- GFMD's International Media Policy and Advisory Centre (GFMD IMPACT)¹⁴ has committed to scaling up its learning and knowledge-sharing efforts serving the international journalism support and media development community.
- Fondation Hironnelle has committed to holding two workshops and compiling a publication that would collect lessons learned and best practices for supporting independent media in fragile and shrinking democratic spaces.

Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) — Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Commitment

RSF commits to developing and operating the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI), a tool allowing trustworthy sources of information to be clearly identifiable online.

The Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) standard is a voluntary, self-regulatory and certifiable ISO-type universal standard developed under the aegis of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN Workshop Agreement 17493). It translates existing ethical and professional

14 <https://gfmd.info/h-content/uploads/2023/02/GFMD-IMPACT-Help-Desk-2022-gfmd.pdf>

standards of journalism into machine-readable code, to be used by online platforms to provide users with indicators of the trustworthiness of an information source online. This allows reliable journalism to clearly distinguish itself from other content online, providing it with a competitive advantage online. JTI can also be used by advertisers, public development and media support institutions, public regulators and other institutions as well as philanthropists to identify and support trustworthy journalistic media.

WPP and GroupM

Commitment

- Add the domains, vetted by Internews' Ads for News initiative for responsible journalism, in local media supply offered to clients.
- Create dedicated marketplaces exclusively with domains vetted by Internews' Ads for News, for responsible journalism, in our top markets.
- Drive awareness among our clients about the importance of investing in responsible journalism titles.
- Drive awareness in the industry about the importance of investing in responsible journalism.

Media Viability Accelerator — Internews

Commitment

- Internews, alongside partner organizations, leads implementation of the Media Viability Accelerator (MVA) announced at the first Summit. A new web-based platform, the MVA will help media compete more effectively for audiences and revenues by learning from the performance of peers globally and participating in a marketplace of those that can help.
- Internews will support MVA implementation within its programs, creating greater agency for media in their survival and growth through improved collaboration and use of context-relevant business data.
- Internews will strengthen connections to the private sector to bring leading businesses and technologists into the MVA in support of independent media.

Media Development Investment Fund

Commitment

To raise a further \$55 million for Pluralis to invest in independent media companies in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, bringing the total funding raised for Pluralis to \$100 million. MDIF co-founded Pluralis in 2021 to support media pluralism and help secure the editorial

independence of media in European countries where capture is prevalent and access to independent news and information is under threat.

Media Council of Kenya (MCK)

Commitment

MCK will support Kenya media industry to deal with market collapse and find business solutions to media financial crisis exacerbated by COVID-19. Using available resources MCK will focus on institutional management and business-development capacity-building: trainings will help media managers identify and choose most relevant business models and practices that fit with their missions and operating conditions. Community media will be supported technically and financially to develop alternative revenue schemes. MCK will aim to establish a competitive Open Media Fund, to provide financial support and mentoring to individual media houses and journalists to develop targeted content, and transition to digital media.

Free Press/Free Press Action Fund

Commitment

Over the next three years, Free Press commits to growing the local news and civic information field, and advocating for policies to invest public funds into community-centered journalism in five US states and cities.

The Way Forward

The work of the Media Freedom Cohort will continue beyond its formulation, which culminates with the Second Summit for Democracy. The Cohort is fortunate to have co-leads already committed to driving multilateral action in support of media freedom: the governments of Canada and The Netherlands co-chair the [Media Freedom Coalition \(MFC\)](#), established in 2019 as a partnership of countries working together proactively to advocate for media freedom at home and abroad.

The MFC provides a platform for part of the work of the Media Freedom Cohort to be sustained beyond the second Summit — specifically in relation to MFC-members' commitments on media freedom. The MFC is a partnership of 51 countries working together proactively to advocate for media freedom at home and abroad, and since its inception MFC member countries have used the Coalition as a platform to make commitments on media freedom. Member countries have also made commitments at other events and occasions, including the Summit for Democracy. The MFC Secretariat, which supports the work of the Coalition and

is hosted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, is currently recording commitments made by MFC member countries and follows up on these as part of its regular communications with members. The Secretariat plans to continue this work, provided it has the capacity to do so.

This approach does not fully replicate the work of the Media Freedom Cohort, because (1) it only covers commitments made by governments, not by other actors, and (2) it only applies to [members](#) of the Media Freedom Coalition. The Media Freedom Cohort encourages the MFC to find ways to continue to involve non-member state stakeholders activated by the Year of Action. Private sector actors, including technology platforms and media outlets themselves, have important perspectives and abilities to contribute to the work of the MFC.

Continuation of the Media Freedom Cohort's work through the MFC is a natural extension, yet progress on the vast challenges to media freedom will take serious and deliberative action.

We encourage the MFC to make the issues addressed by the Media Freedom Cohort and relevant outcomes a priority following the summit. This can and should be done through its various mechanisms, including case response protocols and local diplomatic networks.

Protecting Journalists' Safety & Security

We note with urgent concern that in recent years we have seen an increase in impunity, in the frequency and types of attacks faced by journalists and media workers globally. The growth of digital threats, such as surveillance and online harassment, and conflicts and crises that have put journalists at greater risk or forced them into exile, have increased the dangers to the safety of journalists, with women and those in vulnerable contexts facing unique and disproportionate impacts. Killings, imprisonments and abductions of journalists have reached historic highs. In this situation, these attacks represent a fundamental threat not just to individual news professionals, but to the practice of independent journalism.

Although the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (UNPA) has helped to improve the global response, bringing greater resources, attention, and coordination, this has so far been insufficient to meet the gravity of the challenge or to significantly improve the safety and freedom of the environment in which journalists work. Enhanced multi-stakeholder action in the form of holistic safety and protection practices, training, and funding for those carrying out journalistic work or supporting the work of journalists, is urgently needed.

The [Vienna Call for Action](#) on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity also

provides a clear framework with strong recommendations for governments and UN actors to improve implementation of the UNPA, including actions for protecting the security and safety of journalists at the national level, as well as international coordination and support for these objectives.

Finally, the [ACOS Alliance' Freelance Journalist Safety Principles](#) is also a strong guiding framework for advancing relevant safety best practices and recommendations that can be implemented by international news organizations and the freelancers who work with them, including those pledged for the Summit for Democracy.

Advancing Freedom of Expression

In recent years, the freedom of the media and legitimate reporting by journalists has been undermined, even in supposedly democratic states. Threats and attacks against expression, the media and journalists violates a wide range of human rights norms established in both treaty law and customary international law.

We recall the indispensable role of the free, vibrant and independent media, enabled by full enjoyment of the right to freedom of information and expression as protected under international law (Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), as an essential pillar of any functioning democracy. These freedoms must be exercised freely, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers.

Throughout 2020, the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom produced a series of four advisory reports that focus on improving international mechanisms to enforce international human rights norms. The recommendations from the four advisory reports request action from states, including state members of the Media Freedom Coalition, to promote and protect a vibrant free press and ensure the safety of journalists. All four reports have been developed with input from twenty-four prominent freedom of expression/media freedom experts who sit on the High Level Panel's External Advisory Committee, and through extensive consultation with a broader range of external stakeholders and experts. In addition, all four reports have been endorsed by key international experts and civil society organizations.

Taken together, these recommendations provide a clear and collaborative path for reforms that codify meaningful protections and advance enabling environments for free expression and independent media.

Furthermore, the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, in its capacity as the

independent advisory body of the Media Freedom Coalition ('MFC') has the remit to provide legal opinions to the MFC States regarding draft legislation, or legislation already in force. The High Level Panel can also accept requests for a legal opinion from non-MFC Member States who are looking to improve domestic laws and policies to bring them in line with international human rights standards. The High Level Panel authors opinions to ensure that new legislation meets international standards related to freedom of expression, media freedom and ensures the safety of journalists as well as advise on repealing and revising legislation that is outdated or which restricts media freedom. The High Level Panel looks forward to supporting States and all other stakeholders implement the commitments raised under the Media Freedom Democracy Cohort during the 2023 Summit for Democracy process.

Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media

Fostering independent and diverse media at home: The Windhoek+30 Declaration on Information as a Public Good adopted by UNESCO member states in 2021¹⁵ and other international instruments provide a foundation for effective national efforts. Initiatives such as Sierra Leone's national action plan on media viability¹⁶ should be supported and provide inspiration for others to recommit or develop their own action at home, guided by international standards.

Innovative multi stakeholder initiatives that have the potential to bring about systemic change featured prominently in the commitments, these include:

- **Building trust in journalism:** Addressing declining trust in the news media, and the competition journalism faces with a range of lower-quality content, Reporters Without Borders' **Journalism Trust Initiative** (JTI) enables trustworthy sources of information to be clearly identifiable online through a certification process that can be used to inform advertisers, public development and media support institutions, public regulators and other institutions as well as philanthropists to identify and support trustworthy journalistic media.
- **Protecting Investigative Journalists from Legal Jeopardy:** To meet the increasing threat of vexatious lawsuits intended to intimidate, silence, and financially burden independent journalists around the world, Reporters Shield¹⁷ will defend investigative reporting against legal claims. Developed by OCCRP and the Cyrus R. Vance Center

15 https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/windhoek30declaration_wpfd_2021.pdf (as well as the 2012 UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity sets out principles for cooperation and practical measures and calls on states to establish mechanisms to prevent and punish attacks on journalists)

16 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/our-work/media-development/primed-project/sierra-leone-conference/>

17 <https://www.reporters-shield.org/>

for International Justice of the New York City Bar Association, Reporters Shield offers protection for investigative journalism and other public interest reporting worldwide and will be available in many countries by the summer of 2023.

- The Media Viability Accelerator (MVA) to be launched, will be a new web-based platform that will help media compete more effectively for audiences and revenues by learning from the performance of peers globally and participating in a marketplace of those that can help. Media outlets using the MVA will become better informed about themselves, better equipped to adapt to market changes, and better known to organizations which can assist with their work.

International media assistance: Evidence from the consultations¹⁸ that are informing the OECD DAC GovNet process to renew the principles for supporting journalism and media¹⁹ provides a clear road map for increasing the effectiveness of media assistance. The GFMD/CIMA submission to the Media Freedom Cohort,²⁰ which summarizes the key findings notes that despite significant progress in recent years much more can be done to ensure that donors more consistently adopt and implement the numerous lessons about “what works,” to improve the design and structure of their media development support programs as consultations with WG3, GFMD community and desk research have pointed out. WG3 participants have highlighted areas where support for bolstering independent and diverse media can achieve greater effectiveness:

- Donor strategies that express commitment to independent media often lack internal structures for dedicated media development budgets and support mechanisms. Media funding is thus left scattered across budgets and under teams lacking technical expertise. **More explicit strategies can promote greater support for media sector actors at the national and local levels.**
- Donor institutions often lack the expertise and resources to keep pace with changes in technologies, markets, and societies, or to understand the role of journalism and media in different contexts. Historic underinvestment in independent evaluations and research on what works, and the lack of specific methodologies customized for evaluating the effectiveness of external support to independent media, has resulted

18 The consultation process began when CIMA and GFMD hosted a webinar on principles for media development which was one of over 40 events held on 7 December as part of the Global Democracy Coalition Forum, a virtual 24-hour event convened to provide recommendations to the Summit for Democracy. The webinar, which heard from four civil society and media development stakeholders, as well as representatives from UK FCDO and UNESCO, distilled three recommendations to the Summit for Democracy.

19 <https://impact.gfmd.info/activities-services/mediadev-principles>

20 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VXZKXTAj32jW_29p1Dloc7OLtwjvv0gAZFym2ep81o/edit?usp=sharing

in a low evidence-base for media support in comparison to other areas of development.²¹ **Donors working through co-creation processes, partnering with networks, and investing in knowledge, however, have been able to innovate their support.**²²

- In health, education, and governance, donors have been open to “doing development differently” — adopting agile and locally driven programs that move away from donor-driven solutions. Local practitioners are enabled to experiment, learn, and lead the way toward impactful solutions. These lessons and approaches can be more strongly incorporated into media assistance efforts.
- In spite of widespread interest to do better, most journalism support and media development programs still operate on short funding cycles of up to two years with burdensome administrative requirements.²³ Short funding cycles have trapped media support organizations and their partners (media organizations) in a perpetual administrative cycle of applying for and reporting on small, short-term grants. **Those supporting independent and diverse media should take significant steps to ensure media support remains demand-driven, coordinated, contextually tailored, and oriented toward long-term, strategic goals.**
- Engagement with the media sector by international development actors is often poorly regulated, Principles for doing no harm to media independence and sustainability should be mainstreamed across programming. **International development actors should ensure that engagement with the media sector reinforce democratic norms,** and that partner governments, in implementing development projects, are likewise engaging with the media sector according to internationally accepted best practices.²⁴
- Donor work on digital media issues has focused mainly on helping journalists and news organizations build their capacities to adapt to new technologies and platforms. While such work is important, it fails to address the underlying harms perpetrated by the business practices of the global platforms. Furthermore, barriers to effective collaboration remain between those who work on media development and those who are engaged in internet governance and disinformation agendas. **More effort should**

21 Areas where independent research and evaluations are urgently needed include support to journalists under threat; improving media sustainability; countering mis- and disinformation; improving media literacy; improving the enabling environment for media; and using media to achieve broader development goals.

22 <https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/supporting-media-at-a-time-of-crisis-donors-explore-new-strategies/>

23 <https://impact.gfmd.info/background/consultation/recipient-perceptions-of-media-development-assistance-a-gfmd-study-january-2019>

24 Entry points for media development to support peaceful just and inclusive societies and Agenda 2030 <https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/entry-points-for-media-development-to-support-peaceful-just-and-.html>

be put into developing digital competencies and strengthening the capacities of local partners to meaningfully participate in digital governance policy debates and processes.

- Most current media assistance efforts continue to take a top-down approach to program design and implementation. Media sector stakeholders recommended more rigorous country-based strategies with participatory, country-based diagnostics and program design efforts to ensure local leadership and long-term commitments. **Participatory program design can lead to local ownership and true knowledge of local needs. Local and regional media development organizations have now cultivated enough expertise and knowledge on the ground that their voice must be heard early on in the program design phase.** It was also recommended to standardize data and ensure transparency around commitments to media support programming and investments in interested partners.
- **Strong level of multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination should become the default position for media development projects** as the basis to bring actors together and to facilitate conversation, joint action, or national action plans. Stronger coordination and consensus among major donors could make it easier for other players across the media development landscape — private foundations, international and local investors, and even local authorities — to contribute more effectively to this complex and multifaceted challenge. The process could lead to innovation in support mechanisms, including funds, loans, scholarships, and other approaches to incentivize investment.

Annex I: Media Freedom Cohort Commitments

Members of the Media Freedom Cohort Working Groups were invited to share commitments as part of their membership. Commitments were collected via an online form between December 15, 2022 and February 24, 2023. Members self-selected the Working Group or issue area best aligned with their commitment, though the Cohort recognizes that many commitments may address more than one or overlapping issues. Commitments are presented in this Annex as they were submitted, with light edits for clarity and format only.

WORKING GROUP 1

1. Protecting Journalists' Safety & Security

GOVERNMENT

1. Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Commitment

Austria, being an Executive Board member and serving as the current chair of the Group of Friends for the Safety of Journalists, will proactively advocate for the adoption of a strong decision regarding the implementation report of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists at the 216th UNESCO Executive Board.

Austria, Czechia and Slovakia are organizing a side event on 9 March 2023, in the margins of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to strengthen the safety and protection of women journalists by combatting online threats and harassment.

2. Government of Chile

Commitment

To promote legislative measures aimed at strengthening the exercise of freedom of expression through greater protection of the investigative and informative work carried out by journalists and media workers.

3. Government of Chile

Commitment

To implement inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, in conjunction with civil society, national and international human rights organizations, and other stakeholders, to enable compliance with Chile's international obligations regarding the protection of journalists and media workers.

4. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Safe refuge. Protect independent journalists and engaged voices at risk, by speaking out on their behalf and providing the necessary protection and practical support such as visa facilitation, issuing short term emergency visas and long term residence permits through the programme called "Civil Society."

Measurement

Numbers of short term visas and long term residence permits keep growing (in 2022, more than 800 visas were issued), number of participants of the long term residence permit programme "Civil Society" exceeds 150 (quota set at 500 participants yearly).

Anticipated Completion

Continuing support. Demand based.

Additional Information

https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/the_mfa_proposed_program_was_approved_by.html

https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/informace_pro_cizince/pobytova_opravneni_k_pobytu_nad_90_dnu/program_obcanska_spolecnost/index.html

5. Germany, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

In October 2022, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media jointly launched the Hannah-Arendt-Initiative as GER's new protection program for journalists, media professionals and free speech defenders in crises and conflicts. During its pilot phase in 2022, GER invested more than 7 million Euros in this new initiative. Together with our partners DW Academy, the European Fund for Journalism in Exile, MICT — Media in Cooperation and Transition and the European Center for Press and Media Freedom and others, we supported more than 1000 individuals from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Afghanistan in the continuation of their work. We will further increase our commitment for the protection of journalists within the framework of the Hannah-Arendt-Initiative, in line with the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.

Measurement

Financial commitments will be traced.

Anticipated Completion

December 2023

Additional Information

<https://hannah-arendt-initiative.de/hannah-arendt-initiative-english/>

6. The Greek Government (Coordinator: General Secretariat for Communication & Media)

Commitment

Aiming at the enhancement of policy coherence and better coordination among public entities competent in the field of media freedom, the Greek Government established, in July 2022, the Task Force on Ensuring the Protection, Safety and Empowerment of Journalists and Media Professionals. The Task Force is an inclusive national coordination mechanism comprising representatives of the competent ministries, the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT SA), journalists' associations and members of the academia. Its main responsibilities include, inter alia, keeping track of the professional situation of journalists in Greece, sharing information and know-how among stakeholders, the adaptation and incorporation of best practices into the domestic legal framework and the development of recommendations on future initiatives. The priorities of the Task Force are: the security of journalists online and offline, especially women, at the workplace and in conflict areas (for example in Ukraine), digital security, as well as combating impunity for crimes committed against journalists.

Measurement

The Task Force is expected to submit its first Report to the European Commission, as provided for in paragraph 32 of the 6650/2021 European Commission Recommendation on ensuring the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union. This Report will provide the European Commission with all relevant information regarding measures and actions taken. To this end, the Task Force shall regularly and consistently collect up-to-date developments provided by its members and develop, where appropriate, proposals for future policies and initiatives.

Anticipated Completion

The Task Force is an open-ended coordination mechanism which holds regular meetings, in order to support the work of the Government on the protection of media freedom and the safety of journalists. As of this moment, five meetings have already been held, with the

next one being scheduled for early February 2023.

Additional Information

<https://www.media.gov.gr/ngee-task-force-gia-ti-diasfalisi-tis-prostasias-tis-asfaleias-kai-tis-enischysis-tis-thesis-ton-dimosiografon-kai-allon-epangelmaton-ton-meson-enimerosis/> (in Greek)

<https://www.media.gov.gr/ypografi-mnimoniou-synergasias-me-protovoulia-tis-ge-nikis-grammateias-epikoinonias-kai-enimerosis-7-6-72022/> (in Greek)

7. Estonia MFA

Commitment

Estonia is helping independent media around the world in their relocation to Estonia. We have issued and will continue issuing humanitarian visas to journalists and human rights defenders from Russia and Belarus. There is an agreement reached in our government to issue a concrete number of residency permits to journalists at risk from around the world after their accreditation by the MFA. Estonia will continue its financial contribution to the Global Media Defence Fund, International Fund for Public Interest Media, Digital Defenders Partnership and CSO LifeLine.

Measurement

It will be measured in concrete numbers by successful relocations and concrete help to the journalists at risk. The financial contributions will be easily measured by payments.

Anticipated Completion

No end date, ongoing, need to be decided every year.

8. Luxembourg

Commitment

Luxembourg pledges to establish a platform for supporting human rights defenders, including journalists and media professionals, especially women human rights defenders and journalists.

As part of our candidacy for a mandate on the Human Rights Council, Luxembourg has drawn up a series of voluntary pledges and commitments (A/76/84) for the promotion and protection of human rights, in partnership with national civil society and national human rights institutions. These commitments and pledges can of course also contribute to the goals and purpose of the Summit for Democracy.

9. Luxembourg

Commitment

Luxembourg pledges to continue to support media development, through contributions to UNESCO's Global Media Defense Fund and projects such as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media's Safety of Female Journalists Online Project.

Measurement

Since it is a financial contribution, we can trace its implementation, once the payment is made.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of 2023.

10. Norway/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Norway commits to:

- Implement the "Strategy for promoting freedom of expression in Norwegian foreign and development policy."
- Support UNESCO's mandate to promote freedom of expression and the safety of journalists through voluntary, flexible funding of NOK 52 million for UNESCO's programme 2022-2025.
- Ensure that all Norwegian support to media development and the safety of journalists involves women's meaningful participation and protects their safety online and offline.
- Contribute to coordinated and effective efforts by governments, the media and civil society organisations in supporting media development and the safety of journalists.

*The commitment is based on commitments made at the 2021 Summit for Democracy, but is updated and more specific.

Measurement

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has been mandated to review the implementation of the "Strategy for promoting freedom of expression in Norwegian foreign and development policy" by the end of 2023. This will include reporting from all partner organisations/grant recipients on project results.

Additional Information

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/international-strategy-for-freedom-of-expression2/id2866234/>

11. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK commits to strengthen the Media Freedom Coalition, supporting it in its role as the critical partnership of countries to defend media freedom and the safety of journalists.

* This commitment was made at the Media Freedom Conference in Tallinn in February 2022

Measurement

Success measured by: UK financial support for Media Freedom Coalition Secretariat (up to £600,000 over two years). Support for UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund (up to £3m over 5 years). UK co-chairing Media Development Working Group till December 2023.

Anticipated Completion

End March 2025

BUSINESSES

12. Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Commitment

AFP is pledging to follow and manage even more closely the protection and safety of journalists in the field with the appointment this year of a new editor-in-chief in charge of the safety of journalists, staff and freelancers. This is especially true following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine where dozens of special envoys were sent.

In addition, AFP will focus more on the psychological aftermath of the teams working in difficult conditions, especially in Ukraine (in the field and in the Kiev office) and in Russia and Poland, where there are strong pressures on colleagues.

Measurement

AFP is working on constant feedback and follow ups with journalists after their missions.

13. The Associated Press

Commitment

To build a news-led strategy to ensure that staff safety is at the heart of our coverage decisions while shoring up our operational defenses against a complex and evolving cyber threat. That means training and equipping front-line staff, but also changing the culture of the organization so that we look at all of our journalism through a security lens from planning through to publication and beyond. To raise awareness of risk around the world, senior

managers will continue to build external networks of officials, diplomats and other influencers so that we know, in times of crisis, who to call. We will also redouble efforts to work with peer news organizations to share intelligence.

Measurement

Meet targets of people who need to be trained on a regular basis; meet internal goals in terms of how many hotspots need to be assessed each year for crisis management planning.

Anticipated Completion

Ongoing

14. Google

Commitment

Google and Jigsaw are committed to the safety of journalists through our products, programs and training initiatives such as Advanced Protection Program, Project Shield and Jigsaw's Perspective, Outline, and Harassment Manager (which supports partner NGOs' tools such as TRFilter and FeedShield).

Measurement

We will measure this through the uptake of our products, programs and trainings.

15. Microsoft

Commitment

Microsoft's Democracy Forward team is excited to update on our commitment to working with local journalists worldwide to improve their understanding of digital safety and cybersecurity. In 2022, Microsoft partnered with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) to expand a training curriculum on abuse of state resources in elections for investigative journalists. The training was piloted in October 2022 in Tunisia and November 2022 in Serbia among 29 local journalists, and focused on digital safety to help journalists map personal risks, cybersecurity to defend themselves online, and strengthening journalists' capacity for safely investigating state abuse of public resources.

Measurement

In the two pilots in Tunisia and Serbia, IFES staff collected feedback from in-person observations, facilitator debriefs, and participant feedback.

Now that the two pilots are complete and the lessons learned are compiled, IFES is developing additional tools to more formally measure the participant experience and what makes a

training successful, as well as provide trainees with additional resources that promote strong digital safety practices after the formal training is over. An added benefit of the training was that these journalists, while mostly spread out across the country, were able to come together in person over the course of two days to form a peer support network, which they have carried with them going forward.

Anticipated Completion

This training is currently in high demand across IFES' global project portfolio of 33 countries, and IFES hopes to conduct additional trainings in 2023 and 2024. IFES also hopes to host peer dialogues for journalists and technology companies to workshop common challenges, facilitate exchange of lessons and ideas, and introduce investigative journalists to new tools and opportunities for securing their work and online activities. Meanwhile, Microsoft's Democracy Forward team is expanding our training offerings to journalists on digital safety and cyber hygiene.

Additional Information

Report: Investigative Journalism on Abuse of State Resources in Elections <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t11gZgm9SQGZyJqKsIYLq47CJxq--EsX>

16. Mediahuis Ireland

Commitment

We pledge to support our journalists to fight against any harassment or threats directed at them in the course of their work. We will work collaboratively with other media organisations, the police and government to protect freedom of expression. Intimidation of journalists is a fundamental challenge to any democratic society.

Measurement

We wrote to the police and government departments in the Republic of Ireland in January 2022 and one year later the first meeting of the Media Engagement Group took place. This was attended by 200 members of the media. This included a Journalist Safety Seminar from the police and the establishment of an agreed escalation process for journalists who face threats or abuse. All the main newspaper publishers and broadcasters were represented.

Anticipated Completion

Phase 1 is complete with the establishment of the Media Engagement Group. This will meet quarterly and on an ad hoc basis as required.

Additional Information

<https://www.nuj.org.uk/resource/irish-govt-urged-to-act-on-online-abuse-of-journalists.html>

17. The New York Times

Commitment

The New York Times is committed to fostering a culture of newsroom safety. Our approach is a holistic one, which encompasses physical and digital safety, as well as psychological support. We pledge to continue working to the highest standards of journalists' safety, including adapting our internal safety protocols and processes and addressing current and new threats.

Measurement

The New York Times has a dedicated team providing safety and security support to our newsroom and assessing the effectiveness of our protocols and processes on an ongoing basis.

Anticipated Completion

This work is ongoing.

CIVIL SOCIETY

18. ACOS Alliance

Commitment

The ACOS Alliance will develop the first online safety training course for news editors. This innovative, free to access, course will offer basic and practical preemptive safety measures that can be implemented effectively to improve journalists' safety on assignments, regardless of newsroom size or location, and will empower editors to adhere to safety best practices and advocate for these. We'll work in partnership with WAN-IFRA and other ACOS signatories to combine our expertise and networks.

We'll continue to advocate for the implementation of the Freelance Journalists Safety Principles, foster coordination and collaboration across stakeholders and work on effective safety initiatives.

Measurement

In 2022, the ACOS Alliance directly supported 441 individual journalists and editors through 19 safety training courses and initiatives. Our work reaches wider as more individual journalists and organizations have benefited through our online safety training courses, collaborations and resources. All our activities are implemented in partnership with stakeholders and aim at expanding the impact of ACOS signatories' work around safety.

We will continue to measure and assess our work, not only counting the number of individuals and organizations we are able to support, but understanding how these are adopting safety best practices and its effects.

The editors' online safety training course will be launched by the end of the year. We'll monitor and analyze the number of sign ups and completions, and gather feedback.

Anticipated Completion

The ACOS Alliance commitment to creating a culture of safety is ongoing. We seek to address systemic issues in the journalism ecosystem and this requires time and ongoing dedication.

By the end of 2023, we will launch the editor's online safety training course, create new resources and continue to offer safety training opportunities for journalists.

Additional Information

Freelance Journalists Safety Principles: <https://www.acosalliance.org/>

Psychological safety resources: <https://www.acosalliance.org/trauma-management-for-editors>

Safety management resources: <https://www.acosalliance.org/safety-management>

Digital security resources: <https://www.acosalliance.org/digital-security-resource>

Legal security resources: <https://www.acosalliance.org/legal-assistance>

Insurance resources: <https://www.acosalliance.org/insurance>

19. Afghanistan Journalists Center

Commitment

AFJC is committed to:

- a) use more advocacy-oriented approaches in regard to the press freedom in Afghanistan and to present criticism and incite the de facto authorities to act.
- b) establish a network of Afghan journalists, and media in exile and to better provide reliable information to the people inside Afghanistan and the diaspora community.
- c) take collaborative approaches, engaging in dialogue with the de facto authorities urging them to safeguard the rights of the press and ensure the freedom of the press in Afghanistan.

Measurement

The Afghanistan Journalists Center (AFJC) constantly monitors the situation of journalists with a view to denouncing any violations of press freedom in Afghanistan since 2014. AFJC created Afghanistan's Press Freedom Tracker (APFT) aims to comprehensively document press freedom violations. The organization is regularly updating the press freedom tracker and based on the documented press freedom violations, produces press releases, and

monthly, six-month and annual reports on the state of press freedom in two national languages (Persian/Dari, Pashto) and English and publish them through the organization website, social media and share them with the national and international media outlets, a advocacy groups. Following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and the restriction the group imposed on media freedom, AFJC decided to reorganize in exile. To do so, the process of registration of the AFJC as a non-profit organization is taking place in Belgium. As soon as the registration is done, the organization will be able to set up an office and follow its activities.

20. Africa Foundation For Young Media Professionals

Commitment

We commit to the principles and tenets to promote and live by, defend, lobby and build a network that will push for enabling policy in the country.

Measurement

Change in attitude by every stakeholder and enhanced ability to continually affirm and push for media freedom by all.

Anticipated Completion

December 2023

21. Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy

Commitment

Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy is committed to providing VPN access and training to 1000 independent journalists in Vietnam.

Anticipated Completion

12/31/2023

22. The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI Indonesia)

Commitment

AJI Indonesia commits to actively monitor the journalist safety situation and independent media in Southeast Asia. AJI is collaborating with 6 journalist organizations to provide a monitoring platform on journalist safety in Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and Timor Leste. AJI Indonesia also have a huge commitment to strengthen journalist safety program such as to provide several journalist safety trainings, paralegal trainings, networking with 40 probono lawyers, safety fund, and create a guideline to handling sexual violence.

Measurement

The program will be success if we can launch a journalist safety monitoring platform covering Southeast Asia level, safety training can be reach out minimum 200 local journalists, a national public lawyer network, and there are 3 media company adopt a sexual violence handling guideline.

Anticipated Completion

The program will be completing in a year until last of December 2023

Additional Information

<https://aji.or.id/read/buku/123/guide-to-creating-sop-for-press-companies-to-overcome-sexual-violence-in-the-world-of-work.html>

<https://aji.or.id/read/buku/119/attacks-increase-authoritarianism-strengthens-report-on-the-security-situation-of-indonesian-journalists-2022.html>

23. Amhara Media Corporation

Commitment

I write this to you as a show of my commitment to you and to the growth and development of the Media Freedom Cohort of the Summit for Democracy (S4D). I commit to the strict rules and schedules you have set out through a new strategy for achieving our goals.

I commit to follow through the entire process of getting to where you want to be. I commit to put in the hard work. I commit to not give up especially when things get hard and tough because that is the most important step for our success.

Measurement

To measure success, I will base our set goals, even though not all goals are created equal. I will take the time to outline Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound goals will provide you with the foundation you need to measure the effectiveness of our duty.

Anticipated Completion

Timeline commitment 20 days for Planning, 180 days to implementation, 40 days for monitoring.

Additional Information

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dereje-moges-tadesse-aa479036/>

24. ARTICLE 19

Commitment

A19 commits to work towards strengthening a feminist approach to the safety of journalists and mainstream a gender and intersectional approach to the protection work, following the

Equally Safe guidelines and resources published in 2022 after the development of global research and consultations on how to work towards a feminist approach to the safety of journalists. See <https://www.article19.org/equally-safe/>

Measurement

The number of organisations, projects, resources, legislation and policies that have taken into account the recommendations provided in the Equally Safe research and guidelines: <https://www.article19.org/equally-safe/>

Anticipated Completion

2024

Additional Information

<https://www.article19.org/equally-safe/>

25. ARTICLE 19

Commitment

1. ARTICLE 19 commits to continue working towards strengthening a feminist approach to the safety of journalists and mainstream a gender and intersectional approach, following the Equally Safe guidelines.
2. ARTICLE 19 — through ARTICLE 19's regional offices — pledges to train women and gender and sexual minorities in digital security and strategies to online harassment and abuse.
3. ARTICLE 19 will advocate for States to comply with international standards on the protection of journalists in the context of protests.

Measurement

a) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes b) Number of women and gender and sexual minorities trained c) Monitor of attacks against the press; d) Monitor and analysis of protests, etc.

Anticipated Completion

Regular work, with revised targets set yearly.

Additional Information

<https://www.article19.org/equally-safe/>

<https://www.article19.org/gxr-22/>

https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/38581/Right_to_protest_principles_final.pdf

<https://www.article19.org/resources/event-tackling-online-harassment-and-abuse->

[against-women-journalists/](#)

<https://www.article19.org/campaigns/freetoprotect-2/>

26. Baltic Centre for Media Excellence

Commitment

Baltic Centre for Media Excellence (BCME) in coordination with other Latvian NGOs (Sustainability Foundation, Centre for Media Studies at SSE, Latvian Association of Journalists) is operating a support hub in Riga for exiled media and journalists. The Centre and its partners are committed to provide long-term support for hundreds of media workers, mostly exiles from Russia, on the following issues: helping to secure visas and working permits; consulting on series of legal and tax issues; working on long term sustainability and innovations for exiled media; mentoring, training and capacity building. BCME commits to enhance coordination process with national governments, donor countries and international organisations as well as exiled media hubs across Europe in order to ensure a smooth and coordinated approach in creating support mechanisms for exiled media.

Measurement

Number of journalists served, number of media organisations (or at least parts of these media organisations) represented in Riga, number of capacity building activities, networking and coordination activities implemented.

Anticipated Completion

An ongoing process, without end date.

27. Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)

Commitment

CCHR is devoted to protecting and promoting the realization of fundamental freedoms in Cambodia, advocating for the fulfillment of civil and political rights, democracy and the rule of law. To do so, CCHR will continue producing a series of annual reports on “State of Freedom of Expression, Press Freedom and Access to Information in Cambodia” in which the sources of information for the report will be collected through media monitoring as well as direct interviews with journalists, female journalists, media actors and other relevant stakeholders. These reports will be used for advocacy purposes and to stimulate the public’s acknowledgment of the human rights situation in Cambodia. CCHR also commits to providing legal representation and legal counseling to media actors whom the judiciary has harassed for exercising their legitimate work; security and humanitarian assistance for journalists are ready to appease their needs. Furthermore, CCHR will continue conducting legal analysis on Cambodia’s new legislation that deems to violate fundamental rights in the country.

Measurement

CCHR will continue to monitor and document restrictions and violations on freedom of expression and media freedom and use them as the sources for its annual report on the State of Freedom of Expression, Press Freedom, and Access to Information in Cambodia, implemented by the Advancing Rights in Cambodia (“ARC”) and the Promoting and Protecting Freedom of Expression and Independent Media (“FoEx”) Projects. Interviews with journalists, media actors, and human rights defenders will be used as primary sources to draft the report. Moreover, CCHR hosts radio talks to disseminate crucial information on freedom of expression and independent media among the community, organizes awareness-raising activities on freedom of expression and press freedom targeting youth and university students, and provides legal and humanitarian aid to journalists. Finally, we also run annual campaigns on particular days, such as World Press Freedom Day, and International Day to End Impunity for Crime Against Journalists, aiming to promote media freedom and call for an end to the culture of impunity.

CCHR will measure the impact of its commitments using a series of monitoring and evaluation practices to quantify the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of these efforts to support right-holders to demand their rights. These include responsive evaluations, pre-and post-tests, and follow-up sessions to quantify our programs’ impact and the participants’ capacity to replicate this knowledge among their communities. For instance, the previous year, CCHR conducted two legal counseling and well-being sessions with 136 journalists and citizen journalists. The Project conducted a debriefing from these sessions and conducted a debriefing with various participants to reflect on the session’s relevance and get feedback from the attendees. As for the radio talks and legal and humanitarian aid, the impact can be measured by audience engagement on our website and social media and by the number of journalists benefiting from these sessions.

Anticipated Completion

All the commitments described above will be implemented in the course of 2023.

Additional Information

https://cchrcambodia.org/index_old.php?url=media/media.php&p=reports.php&id=5eng

28. Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding

Commitment

I am fully committed to advocating for the protection and safety of journalists. I am driven by this commitment due to my experience and passion for Press Freedom and journalists’ safety issues.

Measurement

I intend to measure and assess the success of my commitment by documenting the number of attacks on journalists on a monthly basis.

Anticipated Completion

February 2024

29. Free Press Initiative Zambia

Commitment

On behalf of the Free Press Initiative, the WAN-IFRA's Media Freedom Committee and on my own behalf as a press freedom advocate, we commit to play a key role in ensuring safety of journalists online and offline.

The FPI has been carrying out trainings on journalists' safety. It is currently undertaking a project on safety of journalists with support from Internews. It is a 6-month project that ends in April but the FPI is resolved to continue with its proactive approach in ensuring that all journalists are equipped with necessary information on safety by continuing organizing trainings in this regard. We will also continue to issue statements whenever a violation of media freedom is recorded. Additionally, we will continue to engage other stakeholders like police and political actors who are mostly the perpetrators of violence against journalists.

Measurement

Through monitoring of hostile environments and recording whatever media freedom violation is recorded.

Anticipated Completion

December 2024

Additional Information

See statements at <https://www.facebook.com/FPIZambia/>

30. Free Press Unlimited

Commitment

Free Press Unlimited will continue its global emergency response program Reporters Respond in the coming 5 years. This program will also engage deeply on addressing the issue of impunity by continued advocacy states to be accountable for its duty to protect journalists from harm and to act decisively and comprehensively for the safety of journalists along the axis of prevention, protection and prosecution.

Measurement

For states and duty bearers:

- Percentage of decrease in the impunity rate for murder of journalists
- Number of country based safety and protection mechanisms created
- Quality of annual data gathering and reporting to UNESCO, UPR and annual VNR reports SDG framework on safety of journalists

For Civil Society and FPU:

- Number of journalists in distress that were assisted — by FPU and through the local, regional and international CSO networks
- Number of CSOs involved and connected in communities of practise to improve monitoring of violations of journalists' rights
- Number of VNR shadow reports submitted to the VNR cycle of Agenda 2030 for the SDGs

Anticipated Completion

The struggle is endless but we are committed for 5 years to contribute to improve the safety of journalists.

Additional Information

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/reporters-respond-emergency-and-legal-support>

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/current/latest-research>

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/safer-world-truth>

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/current/free-press-unlimited-partners-global-law-firm-linklaters>

31. Fundación Para La Libertad De Prensa (FLIP)

Commitment

La Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa — FLIP — es una organización de la sociedad civil que defiende la libertad de prensa y el derecho de la ciudadanía a acceder a información de interés público en Colombia. Nuestro objetivo es aportar para que las y los periodistas puedan ejercer su oficio sin miedo ni represalias; solo así la ciudadanía podrá conocer diversidad de voces que le permitirán estar bien informada para hacer valer sus derechos y tomar mejores decisiones.

En su intento por sobreponerse a ese miedo, la libertad de prensa necesita de aliados y aliadas. Necesita que la ciudadanía entienda su valor, para saber por qué debe protegerla.

Porque cuando ella está en riesgo, la democracia también lo está.

La libertad de prensa es como el oxígeno, no hay manera de restringírsela a algunos sin que todos dejemos de respirar.

32. Gender and Media Connect

Commitment

We commit to providing capacity building support to strengthen policies and practices that promote gender equality in news media, safety and security of women journalists as they do their work, and ending sexual harassment in Zimbabwe and southern Africa.

Measurement

We will conduct quantitative and qualitative assessments including, media monitoring, surveys, focus group discussions and observation methods to measure the quantity and quality of policies and measures put in place to achieve gender equality in news media as well as safety and security of women journalists as they do their work.

Anticipated Completion

2025

33. Gulf Centre for Human Rights

Commitment

Since 2020, with support from the UNESCO GMDF, GCHR has worked with journalists in the MENA region to increase their capacity to carry out investigative reporting securely, through training, resources and funds for the investigations themselves. We pledge to provide ongoing training, support and resources to MENA journalists, while also following up on cases of impunity through our annual reports on the International Day to End Impunity. In most cases, there has been total impunity for those responsible for abusing or murdering journalists in the MENA Region and we will continue to carry out advocacy to help end this pattern, in addition to World Press Freedom Day activities.

Measurement

We will measure the success of our commitment by the number of resources available in Arabic on our new Emergency Hub, as well as the number of journalists who can access them, or who participate in our training workshops.

Anticipated Completion

We will launch an Emergency Resource Hub in March 2023 and provide events with training workshops to journalists on 3 May 2023 and 2 November 2023.

Additional Information

GCHR's No to Impunity Report <https://www.gc4hr.org/report/view/173>

GCHR's International Day to End Impunity activities: <https://www.gc4hr.org/news/view/3150>

34. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Commitment

Based on feedback from our local partners across projects globally, IFES has prioritized development of a training program to strengthen investigative reporting on corruption and elections. Given the sensitivity of this reporting, the training program includes a module developed with Microsoft's Democracy Forward Initiative and the Global Cyber Alliance (GCA) on protecting journalists' digital security. IFES commits to rolling out this new curriculum — specifically the digital security training for journalists — in two countries holding elections with an active campaign period between May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024.

Measurement

To date IFES has only held pilot implementations of the curriculum in Tunisia and Serbia. The training program, now updated with lessons learned from these pilot implementations, has yet to be funded and deployed through our election support projects. IFES will consider the commitment successful if the training is:

- tailored and applied to a minimum of two electoral contexts in a year
- pre-assessed in scoping conversations with local elections and/or anti-corruption organizations as highly-responsive interventions
- positively post-reviewed by media participants in the program (moderate to high satisfaction levels for content and delivery, as measured in post-training evaluations).

Anticipated Completion

Our aim is to have two separate trainings conducted between May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024. Election dates may fall outside of this period, but journalist training should be completed within this window.

Additional Information

Report: Investigative Journalism on Abuse of State Resources in Elections <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t11gZgm9SQGZyJqKsIYLq47CJxq--EsX>

35. International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)

Commitment

The IWMF's News Safety Project, which includes holistic safety training and policy support for newsrooms and journalists, is designed to increase journalists' safety online and offline, with a focus on the unique threats faced by women and nonbinary journalists. In addition, the IWMF founded and leads the Coalition Against Online Violence, a collection of 70 organizations worldwide developing solutions to address Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence, particularly as it impacts women journalists.

Measurement

In 2022, the IWMF provided safety training and support to 530 journalists and 20 newsrooms, and grew our Coalition Against Online Violence to 70 members. Additionally, thousands of journalists accessed our MOOCs and self-paced safety courses. In 2023, we will build on this success to support more journalists and newsrooms facing threats online and offline. We will also continue our emergency assistance grant making to support women and nonbinary journalists in crisis. In 2022, we disbursed more than \$483,000 in emergency funding to more than 191 journalists in need, from nearly 30 countries.

Anticipated Completion

This work is ongoing, as the threats affecting women journalists continue to multiply globally. Links to our safety resources and courses are included below. We continue to develop safety resources to address gaps for women journalists.

Additional Information

IWMF News Safety Project — Intake Form — <https://iwmf.submittable.com/submit/9dcb-bad0-8ddb-4dad-9f74-6731edaf87aa/iwmf-news-safety-project-intake-form>

A Mental Health Guide for Journalists Facing Online Violence — <https://www.iwmf.org/mental-health-guide/>

A Guide to Protecting Newsrooms and Journalists Against Online Violence — <https://www.iwmf.org/newsroom-policy-guide/>

Self-Directed Course: How to Report Safely: Strategies for Women Journalists and Their Allies — <https://journalismcourses.org/course/how-to-report-safely-a-guide-for-women-journalists-their-allies/>

Self-Directed Course: Online Harassment: Strategies for Journalists' Defense — <https://journalismcourses.org/course/onlineharassment/>

Self-Directed Course: Know Your Trolls — https://learn.totem-project.org/courses/course-v1:IWMF+IWMF_OH_EN+001/about

Self-Directed Course: Keep It Private — https://learn.totem-project.org/courses/course-v1:IWMF+IWMF_KP_EN+001/about

Online Violence Response Hub — <https://onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/>

IWMF Emergency Funds — <https://www.iwmf.org/programs/emergency-fund/>

36. Internews

Commitment

Internews commits to raising \$4M for an Emergency Fund for Independent Media. These funds will be used, in part, to support journalists in crisis with relocation assistance, safety equipment, digital security services, and funding to maintain news production under incredibly challenging conditions.

Measurement

This commitment will be met when we reach of the \$4M goal. Thereafter, we will regularly share information on how the emergency funds are used.

Anticipated Completion

We seek to reach the \$4M goal by the end of 2024. As of February 2023, we have already raised \$2.5M.

Additional Information

<https://internews.org/the-internews-emergency-fund-for-independent-media/>

37. IREX

Commitment

IREX is committed to supporting independent journalists in environments where they experience censure and oppression by increasing their physical safety, digital security, and psychosocial well-being. This will enable them to work resiliently and continue producing quality information.

Measurement

Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Data.

Anticipated Completion

We will meet this commitment by 2028.

38. IREX

Commitment

IREX is committed to empowering youth in at least 20 countries to become more resilient to disinformation, through integrating information and media literacy into school and university instruction, enriching existing and creating new courses; by adding high quality extracurricular options; and through a combination of online and blended learning courses.

*submitted as a cross-cutting commitment, spanning all working groups

Measurement

We commit to reaching over 15,000,000 individuals with digital content designed to improve critical information engagement behaviors. Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Data will measure the success of this commitment.

Anticipated Completion

We will reach or exceed our goal by 2028.

39. Journalists for Human Rights

Commitment

JHR relocated and will help to resettle more than 500 Afghan journalists, HRDs and their families by 2023. This relocation and resettlement involved direct protection including evacuation from Afghanistan to Pakistan to the country of resettlement, accommodation, food, medical care, immigration consultation including securing private sponsorship as well as the successful referral of journalists in our network to Canada's humanitarian stream. In Kenya we work with AMWIK to develop a standard sexual harassment policy for the media industry. So far 5 media outlets, including the local broadcaster have adopted the policy. Our goal is to have an additional 8 media outlets adapt the policy.

Measurement

The success will be measured through monitoring and evaluation as part of the project and reported to Global Affairs Canada.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of 2023.

Additional Information

<https://jhr.ca/category/press-release>

40. Maharat Foundation

Commitment

Commit to train at least 50 journalists on non-discrimination and gender sensitive approaches within our national initiative to reform media laws in Lebanon by the end of 2023, while addressing online violence particularly online gender based violence through monitoring and engagement with various stakeholders including tech platforms and the state to develop rapid response mechanisms.

Measurement

Number of journalists trained, surveys collected, hotline to receive complaints related to VAWP, Cases reported to Meta through direct reporting channel as a trusted partner, monitoring results.

Anticipated Completion

End of 2023

Additional Information

Violence against women journalists and activists prior to Lebanon elections in 2022:

https://maharatfoundation.org/en/MeTooReport_VAWP

https://maharatfoundation.org/en/marsadvawp_finalreport

https://maharatfoundation.org/PoliticalDiscourse_PostElection

41. Media Alliance of Zimbabwe

Commitment

We commit to promoting the safety and security of journalists, particularly on the frontlines of covering conflict torn areas. We pledge to monitor violations of their rights, to speak out and engage with relevant stakeholders. We commit to equip journalists with requisite skills in becoming more security conscious and promoting professionalism, itself the first line of defense. We commit to put an end to impunity for crimes against journalists and making deliberate interventions to report and act against perpetrators of crimes against journalists.

Measurement

We will monitor the cases of violations against journalists. We will track the number of cases investigated and prosecuted of crimes against journalists.

Anticipated Completion

Between 2023 and 2024

42. Media Foundation for West Africa

Commitment

The MFWA commits to highlight the abusive use of the 2018 Digital Code of Benin to target journalists and activists in that country. Within less than two years of its enactment, the law had already been used to arrest, detain and harass 17 people. It is a major drawback to the progress the country had made by abolishing detention and custodial sentences for libel and false publication in the Press Code no 2015-07. It is therefore proposed to organise a national forum on the Digital Code and the Press Code.

Activities:

1. Report highlighting the climate of repression created by the use of the law.
2. Stakeholders Dialogue (Participants: pro-media lawyers, media managers, journalists, civil society actors, communication specialists, the bar, regulatory bodies, prosecutors, security agencies etc.)
3. Lobby some lawmakers to seek an amendment of the Digital Code or clarity that the media law supersedes the Code as far as the work of journalists are concerned
4. Training/Capacity-Building for Online Journalists to master fact-checking in order to improve factual reporting.

Measurement

Success will be measured in the short term by:

- Decreasing trend in the usage of the law against journalists over the next year.
- A statement from a lawmaker or lawmakers seeking an amendment to the law or a declaration that it should not apply to journalistic work.
- In the long term, the actual amendment or declaration that the digital code does not apply to journalistic work.

Anticipated Completion

Report — May 23, 2023/ Stakeholders' Dialogue — July 2023/ Lobbying June — December 2023

Additional Information

<https://www.mfwa.org/issues-in-focus/release-journalist-patric-gbaguidi-herve-al-lade-from-unjustifiable-detention/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/01/benin-au-moins-personnes-poursuiv-ies-en-moins-de-deux-ans/>

<https://www.afapdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Benin-Loi-2017-20-Portant-code-du-numerique-en-Republique-du-Benin.pdf>

<https://www.mfwa.org/investigative-journalist-ignace-sossou-released-from-prison/>

43. Media Monitoring Africa

Commitment

Media Monitoring Africa will release a public platform to help capture and track attacks against journalists online in South Africa. In 2024 we will expand to Southern Africa.

Measurement

Success will be based on the platform being complete and functional as well as attacks

being submitted for analysis and tracking.

Anticipated Completion

We will release the Media Attack Reporting System before the middle of the year, and we will assess attacks on an ongoing basis thereafter.

Additional Information

The website is not yet live but it will be available through our website: www.mma.org.za

44. Media Voice (Media and Communication Educational and Research Center)

Commitment

- Contribute in protecting journalists from physical and verbal (attempts to discredit journalists, illegal surveillance, stigmatization and humiliation of journalists, restriction access to sources, etc.);
- Use interdisciplinary approach in conducting studies focused and assessing media environment;
- Contribute in ending impunity, as well as the government's persecution of the media and journalists, including politically motivated trials, arrests of journalists and media people.

Measurement

- Number of statements released.
- Number of academic blogs and studies.

Anticipated Completion

End of 2023

Additional Information

Media Environment 2022: Threats and Supportive Instruments in Georgia: <https://bit.ly/3wSYqFW>

45. MFC Malawi

Commitment

Our journalists work in stressful situations without being mentally prepared for it and sometimes suffer mental and physical injury. In the absence of clear policies, their media houses do not step in to help, leading to serious mental health problems. We commit to ensuring that journalists are prepared for such situations and are properly assisted when adversely affected.

Measurement

Training of trainers to equip media managers to prepare their staff for such situations. Development of a generic insurance policy that will guide media houses on how to step in and help media practitioners to seek redress where there is inaction.

Anticipated Completion

June 2024

46. Mindanao Independent Press Council (MIPC) Inc.**Commitment**

Given the endless threats and killings besetting the fourth estate in The Philippines where cases of killings and threats among journalists are prevalent, the Mindanao Independent Press Council (MIPC) Inc. commits to do its best to continuously conduct trainings and seminars involving media communities and involve peace stakeholders by making them understand the role of the media as a messenger to avoid media killings or threats, find a workable solution to resolve the challenges besetting the media communities. We pledge to support all endeavors to protect the democratic space, especially among journalists, so that freedom lives.

Measurement

The government and the media community must work together to resolve the cases involving the deaths of journalists, prevent killings and threats among journalists especially in hostile countries and communities in particular.

Anticipated Completion

Starting February 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024

Additional Information

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists/observatory/country/223790>

47. New Zealand News Publishers' Association and Media Freedom Committee**Commitment**

Working together as an industry, we will continue to proactively engage with the Police and Government while providing additional security measures for journalists. We'll provide and share additional training and advice while continuing to evolve operational guidelines to ensure their safety.

Measurement

An academic survey of New Zealand journalists to accurately gauge the level of abuse and

attacks is being supported by the industry.

Anticipated Completion

By December 2023

Additional Information

<https://npa.co.nz/media-freedom-committee/>

<https://npa.co.nz/news/gear-smashed-and-violent-threats/>

48. Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF)

Commitment

PPF endorses the recommendations put forward by the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom in three of its advisory reports to provide safe refuge to journalists at risk, strengthen consular support for journalists at risk and promote more effective investigations into abuses against journalists.

PPF is committed to ensuring attacks on the media in Pakistan continue to be documented, condemned and raised at the highest forums. We support the High Level Panel's recommendations of making investigations more effective through setting up an international investigative task force, supporting NGOs doing this work and strengthening the UN's capacity. PPF is committed to providing information, data and updates when it comes to attacks against the media in Pakistan.

Measurement

Since 1992, PPF has documentation of abuses against journalists and media professionals.

In order to ensure its commitments to the Media Freedom Cohort, PPF will:

- In line with strengthening consular support for journalists at risk, PPF will follow up with and track progress on support for the safety of journalists in Pakistan from embassies based in Pakistan.
- As a member of the Media Freedom Coalition, PPF will continue to raise cases of attacks on journalists in Pakistan and the situation of press freedom in Pakistan.
- PPF documents attacks on journalists and media professionals including updates over time which make it possible to track the impunity in crimes against media in Pakistan. From verifying the initial incident to following up on court proceedings or the lack thereof, PPF tracks every attack against the media in Pakistan.
- In order to strengthen the system within Pakistan, we will continue to push for journalists'

safety legislation within Pakistan. After successful lobbying and consultative sessions led by PPF along with other actors, safety legislation was passed in the Sindh province and at a federal level. We will focus on pushing for similar legislation in the rest of Pakistan, i.e. in the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces as well as the Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir territories.

- PPF is committed to pushing for the effective implementation of the safety laws that have already been passed in the Sindh province and at a federal level. PPF has started this work through awareness raising and training seminars across Sindh engaging with journalists on how to make use of the law. In every instance where the law is violated in an attack on a media professional, we make it a point to draw attention once again to the laws and the lack of implementation.

Anticipated Completion

- This work is ongoing at PPF and is part of our daily operations.
- Whenever an attack against a journalist takes place in Pakistan, we investigate, condemn and continue to seek updates on the incident. This information is recorded in a media attack sheet which is regularly updated. In order to complete our commitment, this work will continue.
- Even years later, we track the impunity in murders of journalists and media professionals.
- Annual reports providing an overview of the situation of press freedom in Pakistan as well as a report on the International Day to End Impunity in Crimes Against Journalists and on World Press Freedom Day are released by PPF. This work involves highlighting the track record of impunity in crimes against the media.

Additional Information

Pakistan Press Foundation website: <https://www.pakistanpressfoundation.org/>

Annual report on press freedom in Pakistan 2022: <https://www.pakistanpressfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-PPF-Press-Freedom-Report-1.pdf>

49. Rory Peck Trust

Commitment

The Rory Peck Trust commits to supporting freelance journalists with emergency financial support, safety training and therapy as well as bespoke safety advice through our safety clinics and risk & safety helpdesk.

Measurement

We pledge to support at least 100 journalists directly in 2023

Anticipated Completion

Dec 31, 2023

50. Rural Media Network Pakistan

Commitment

Rural Media Network Pakistan (RMNP) is pledging to train 45 journalists working in the hostile environment in rural areas of Pakistan.

Measurement

Three training sessions will be conducted on Journalists' Safety issues. Three senior journalists will be selected to transfer the acquired skills to their other colleagues who are not part of this training programme.

Anticipated Completion

3rd May 2023, 6th September 2023 and 2nd November 2023.

Additional Information

<http://commonwealthjournalists.org/2022/11/21/xxxxxxxxxxx/>

<https://dailynaps.com.pk/journalists-use-the-journalist-protection-and-welfare-bill/>

51. Safety of Journalists Coalition (ICSO SoJ Coalition)

The organizations part of the International Civil Society Coalition on the Safety of Journalists are: ACOS Alliance, ARTICLE 19, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), Freedom House, Fundacion para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), IFEX, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Media Support (IMS), International News Safety Institute (INSI), International Women Media Foundation (IWMF), Internews, International Press Institute (IPI), IREX, Media Foundation for West African (MFWA), Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), Open Society Foundations (OSF), PEN America, PEN International, Rory Peck Trust (RPT), Reporters sans Frontières (RSF), Samir Kassir Foundation (SKeyes Center).

Commitment

The ICSO SoJ Coalition pledges to support the implementation of the 2022 Vienna Call for Action. The Vienna Call for Action covers six sub-themes around protecting journalists' safety and security: gender; monitoring attacks; national safety mechanisms; impunity; digital threats; and the overall effectiveness of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Members commit to engaging with relevant States and UN

actors bringing their expertise built upon decades of experience supporting or advocating for independent public interest journalism and their direct connection to media outlets and freelancers operating in the most challenging contexts across the globe to help ensure effective implementation of the recommendations.

Measurement

The success of this commitment will be dependent on concrete actions taken by diverse stakeholders, with an emphasis on the duty-bearers who hold the greatest responsibility for implementing the UNPA — namely, States and UN Agencies. Regular strategic multi-stakeholder dialogues to discuss these actions could provide the platform for exchanges between all relevant actors. This can provide an opportunity for UN Agencies, States, the private sector, the academic sector, NGOs, and additional stakeholders to discuss collaborative actions, initiatives, and partnerships to implement the recommendations set out in the Vienna Call for Action.

Since the adoption of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in 2012, stakeholders across sectors have convened at five-year intervals to take stock of collective progress, developments and good practices to promote journalist safety at national, regional and international levels. This would be a natural opportunity to measure the success of our commitment, though more regular evaluation and follow-up during other key international events, convenings, or countries' human rights reviews should be pursued in the interim.

For example, the upcoming World Press Freedom Day celebrations could be taken as an initial opportunity to convene the Media Freedom Coalition, UN Agencies (including the Focal Points for Safety of Journalists) and the SoJ coalition with the aim of establishing a more consistent and coordinated feedback loop focused on ensuring transparency, accountability and support around the progress of implementation.

Anticipated Completion

The Vienna Call for Action is a comprehensive set of recommendations that will require continuous multi-level advocacy with States, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders from the ICSO SoJ Coalition to achieve. The commitment will be complete when the Vienna Call for Action becomes a key leading reference for decision-makers who seek to support the safety of journalists.

Additional Information

CIVIL SOCIETY CALL FOR ACTION_Final Jan 2023 — Google Docs

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mlrbxQ45W4rPSj9Kd30De-8AYp5rkJ->

52. Somali Media Women Association (SOMWA)

Commitment

Gender-based violence against women is a national-level problem that takes many different shapes and forms, including sexual harassment in the newsroom and in the field of collecting news and information, and it urgently needs to be addressed.

Our commitment is to train 100 media outlets from all federal states in gender sensitive reporting so that they can cover under-reported issues that affect women in general, including gender-based violence against female journalists, by hosting roundtable discussions on how to address this issue, which has physical and psychological consequences for female journalists.

Furthermore, we will keep recording and monitoring GBV cases against women journalists and engage media companies to get support and help for women journalists against misogynists.

Measurement

We measure our commitments by gathering participants' views after roundtable discussions and go to internal displaced persons camps and do survey to see if their issues have being covered.

We will conduct focus groups for female journalists and listen to what has changed since the implementation of our programs.

When our commitment is implemented, we are expecting to see more women's issues covered and reduced GBV against women in general, and to improve the confidence of female journalists without the fear of misogynists.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of this year 2023

Additional Information

<https://somwa.org/the-impact-of-online-offline-harassment-on-somali-female-journalists/>
<https://somwa.org/ilhans-everyday-challenge-include-work-related-sexual-abuse-in-the-newsroom/>

53. The Swedish Media Publishers' Association (Tidningsutgivarna)

Commitment

We will increase the sharing of knowledge between our member companies, and the national, regional, and local police authorities, about how to handle threats and violent crimes against newsrooms, publishers, and journalists, and how to reduce their vulnerability. Editorial offices throughout Sweden will be offered regionally adapted events on this theme. The idea is also to create conditions for developing local collaboration and exchange, not least in crime prevention work.

Measurement

Success will be measured through participation and evaluations from participants after each meeting.

Anticipated Completion

The first of these meetings took place in December 2022 and they will continue throughout 2023.

Additional Information

https://tu.se/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TU_Polisen_Vast-och-Bergslagen-2-dec.pdf (In Swedish)

54. World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA)

Commitment

By the end of 2023, WAN-IFRA will have provided physical safety, digital security, sexual harassment, psychosocial, mental health and well-being training to up to 250 media professionals and worked with approximately 30 media organisations to improve a culture of safety inside their newsrooms.

Measurement

Number of individuals trained; number of newsrooms engaged; pre-and post training surveys; follow-up interviews with participants; on-going measurement of organisational progress (baseline safety audit, end-point comparative surveys), etc.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of 2023

55. Thomson Reuters Foundation

Commitment

The Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF) commits to strengthening the Safety, Security and

Wellbeing of journalists by developing and delivering modules on the latest digital tools, legal solutions, mental health and journalism approaches to counter online harassment and cyberattacks, with a special focus on media in exile, women and vulnerable communities.

We commit to developing resources and research on current threats to journalists' safety, security and psycho-social wellbeing as well as the solutions to counter these attacks.

We commit to convene and collaborate with high-level stakeholders across different sectors to push for solutions on safety and security of journalists.

Measurement

TRF aims to integrate modules on Safety, Security and Wellbeing in its learning and development programmes to reach at least 50% of the journalists to whom we deliver training per year.

TRF aims to produce new resources and/or research in 2023 touching upon emerging threats to journalists' safety, security and psycho-social wellbeing and disseminating those to the widest range of audiences.

TRF aims to dedicate resources to convene and participate in high-level stakeholder panels in 2023 across different sectors that highlight solutions for safety and security of journalists.

Anticipated Completion

End 2023

Additional Information

www.trust.org

<https://www.trust.org/i/?id=7bb2ae47-ecce-45b5-ba7e-95b106d3cd0c>

<https://safetyofjournalists.trust.org/>

Medialegalhelp.org

2. Advancing Freedom of Expression

GOVERNMENT

56. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Continue our engagement in the Media Freedom Coalition and active membership of its Executive Group, i.e. by coordinating activities in Belarus and Vietnam.

Measurement

Closer engagement within the MFC. Meeting and other activities on media freedom in Belarus and Vietnam.

Anticipated Completion

The Czech Republic is a Member of the Executive Group until the end of year 2023.

57. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Contribute to the freedom of expression and safety of journalists and accountability of the perpetrators of crimes against them by applying the newly established National Sanction Mechanism.

Measurement

Number of perpetrators on the National Sanction List.

Anticipated Completion

Continuing.

58. Government of Malta

Commitment

Modernisation of the Freedom of Information Portal. The FOIA in Malta has an online presence, allowing journalists and members of the public to submit requests and follow up the process as necessary. This portal will be modernised for a more efficient administration of FOI requests.

Measurement

Tender to be published, awarded and a new system created, executed and installed.

Anticipated Completion.

15 months from the award of the tender.

Additional Information

<https://www.etenders.gov.mt/epps/cft/prepareViewCfTWS.do?resourceId=9509783>

59. Government of Malta

Commitment

The establishment of a Whistleblower Reporting Platform. This platform will allow for the collection of statistics and secure methods of whistleblower reporting in terms of Directive EU 2019/1937.

Measurement

Tender to be published, awarded and a new system created, executed and installed.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of quarter 4 2024.

Additional Information

RRP Plan. Reform number C6.R.3 bearing sequential number 6.14. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_11941_2021_ADD_1&from=EN

60. Sierra Leone, Ministry of Information and Communications

Commitment

Our Government hereby commits to setting up coordination mechanisms and task forces on the safety of journalists, covering government institutions, media and civil society in Sierra Leone.

Measurement

This could be measured through the coordination mechanism put in place through inclusive participation, task force established at national level and through quarterly or monthly and annual reports published by SLAJ and other related bodies including CSOs.

Anticipated Completion

This commitment is enhanced every three years, effective 2022.

Additional Information

The Government of Sierra Leone has repealed the Seditious criminal libel law, enhanced the Right to Access Information, enhanced freedom of expression and supported safety of

journalists in Sierra Leone.

61. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK commits to take strong action to combat technology facilitated gender-based violence, which is a major threat to media freedom and freedom of expression.

Measurement

Success measured by: active membership of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, including chairing the data and evidence working group; funding second phase of research to develop an early warning system for women journalists at risk of online violence.

Anticipated Completion

End March 2025

62. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK will elevate the issue of internet shutdowns and restrictions on the international policy agenda, highlighting their impact on journalists and media workers.

Measurement

Success measured by: UK championing online freedoms through the Freedom Online Coalition and specifically through chairing the Taskforce on Internet Shutdowns. UK hosting an event on International Day for Universal Access to Information (28 September 2023) which will draw attention to the impact that Internet shutdowns have on the work of independent media.

Anticipated Completion

End December 2023

63. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK will move decisively to stamp out Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP).

Measurement

Success measured by: Introducing a new early dismissal procedure that would allow the judiciary to identify and dispose of unmeritorious claims at the earliest opportunity, before prohibitive costs are incurred.

Anticipated Completion

End March 2025

CIVIL SOCIETY

64. ARTICLE 19

Commitment

1. ARTICLE 19 will expand its policy and advocacy work in tackling abusive litigation or SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation) to ensure that comprehensive measures against SLAPPs are adopted on national, international and regional levels (in particular in Europe and Latin America).

2. ARTICLE 19 will strengthen the efforts to improve international protection against deployment of illegal surveillance and spyware against journalists and human rights defenders, and the efforts to combat impunity for such surveillance, including through strategic litigation.

Measurement

a) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes b) Analysis of the impacts of our strategic litigation cases

Anticipated Completion

Regular work, with evaluated targets set yearly.

Additional Information

<https://www.article19.org/resources/europe-council-of-europe-anti-slapps-initiatives/>

<https://articulo19.org/ejercitoespia-nuevos-casos-de-espionaje-con-pegasus-en-mexico-no-deben-quedar-en-la-impunidad/>

<https://www.article19.org/issue/privacy-and-surveillance/>

65. Campaign for Free Expression

Commitment

I run a regional freedom of expression organisation that works across a number of countries and sectors, defending and promoting FoE. We would like to coordinate better with organisations in other regions.

Measurement

We undertake regular Monitoring and Evaluation exercises of our work.

Additional Information

66. Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding

Commitment

My commitment is based on gap analysis of the media development environment that inter alia requires reforms in promotion of safety of journalists from attacks and other forms of abuses which become rife especially during elections. The existing legislations and frameworks for protection of journalists have not been very impactful in keeping journalists from harm's way. There is therefore the need for robust advocacy and engagements with relevant stakeholders to co-create structures for media rights protection and regulation which will lay emphasis on ethical standards and other emerging new media digital rights needs in Liberia.

Measurement

I intended to build on a nascent structure of media safety coalition of state and non-state actors by courtesy of the Media Foundation of West Africa. Specific roles have been assigned to the sectors constituting the media safety coalition which need to be monitored and encouraged to deliver the shared roles. This is one area I will be looking at and providing updates in radio talk shows and social media posts as an advocacy action to ensure that the system works in protecting freedom of expression during and after the elections. Success will be measured by the drop in number of attacks and abuse of media rights and progress to legislate an Independent Media Commission which is in the offing.

Anticipated Completion

My commitment will terminate in the aftermath of the October 2023 election. This will be an appropriate time to release a progress report about how journalist safety has been reduced or heightened. The output of this exercise will provide the inspiration to sustain the gains and or advance the collaboration to cover other milestones, establishment of an Independent Media Commission, advancing investigating and good governance reporting to support the yearning for the consolidation of a fragile peace and democracy in Liberia.

67. Child Rights Centre Albania (CRCA/ECPAT Albania)

Commitment

Strengthen protections for better, safer and innovative exercise of the freedom of expression by children and youth in Albania.

Measurement

- Legislation and policies related to freedom of expression of children and youth have improved to include better guarantees and protections;

- % of children and young people participating and contributing in the accountability of the Parliament and Government (central and local);
- Number of new media platforms established by youth for youth.

Anticipated Completion

End of 2025

Additional Information

CRCA/ECPAT Albania is the largest child and youth rights organisation in the country. We support children and young people through the Youth Parliament, which speaks on behalf of 35,000 young people in Albania. Part of the work we do in cooperation with the relevant authorities is to support the full exercise of the rights of children and young people in Albania. One of the priorities that has been identified in this regard is the lack of proper protections in legislation and policies for children and youth when it comes to the exercise of their freedom of expression, either by themselves or when expressed in media, social networks or other forms of mediums. We intend to support, together with our partners, strengthening of legal framework and policies nationally, in full consultation and participation of children and young people, to be able to protect and guarantee their freedom of expression in all the forms and mediums possible.

68. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Commitment

Governments play a critical role in ensuring the safe and successful relocation of journalists at risk. Since the creation of CPJ's Journalist Assistance program in 2001, the single most common request for support has been for emergency relocation. CPJ will work in partnership with other groups and at least three governments to ensure the creation of permanent frameworks for journalists' safe refuge that can be scaled up in response to crises. We will produce reporting and public dialogue to advance recommendations in line with those by the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom.

Measurement

Amount of CPJ reporting on safe refuge/exile issues or cases; number of public discussions; countries that commit to or fully implement a safe refuge policy that is embedded into their framework(s) rather than agreement in principle that is only activated in response to a crisis.

Anticipated Completion

Safe refuge is a CPJ priority as part of its current strategy, which goes until 2025.

Additional Information

CPJ highlights risks for journalists who flee; calls on nations to create special emergency visas: <https://cpj.org/2021/06/cpj-highlights-risks-for-journalists-who-flee-calls-on-nations-to-create-special-emergency-visas/>

CPJ Policy Recommendations on emergency visas: <https://cpj.org/2021/06/at-risk-journalists-who-must-flee-home-countries-often-find-few-quick-and-safe-options/#recommendations>

CPJ Report — Forced to flee: A timeline of journalists' flight into exile (2014): <https://cpj.org/reports/2014/06/journalists-flight-into-exile/>

Snapshot: the case of Abraham Jiménez Enoa (Cuba): <https://cpj.org/2022/07/awards-abraham-jimenez-enoa-cuba/>

Snapshot: the case of Niyaz Abdullah (Iraqi Kurdistan): <https://cpj.org/2022/07/awards-niyaz-abdullah-iraqi-kurdistan/>

69. Gulliver Projects

Commitment

Education does not constitute Visual Literacy, but only verbal and written literacy. The absence of Visual Literacy in education results in a disturbing lack of public self-awareness, gaps in the cognitive self, which stand in the way of an open and unbiased perception of reality and free press. Therefore Visually illiterate citizens constitute a weak basis for democracies and their free press. What we need is a synergetic educational system, in which Visual and Written Literacy keep each other in a cognitive equilibrium. We are committing ourselves to found institutions for Visual Literacy.

*Commitment was introduced at the Documenta 15 in Kassel

Measurement

The success of our commitment is dependent on the political and financial willingness of the democratic governments to constitute such associations of Visual Literacy.

Anticipated Completion

The commitment will be completed with the founding of institutions for Visual Literacy.

Additional Information

<https://www.gulliverprojects.com/Documenta-Fifteen-2022>

https://www.lkca.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CE60_Culturele_democratie_en_onderwijs_-Barend_van_Heusden.pdf

70. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

Commitment

Lawyers play a key role in ensuring access to justice, the right to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence, equality before the law and the courts, and respect for human dignity and human rights. For lawyers to fully perform their professional activities, states must ensure their independence, as well as lawyers' safety and security. The IBAHRI will continue to work with the global legal profession to provide tools to respond to emerging threats against, and provide high quality, effective legal support to journalists and media professionals at risk, as well as support their work to promote and protect freedom of expression and hold power to account.

Measurement

Continue to serve as the Secretariat to the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on media freedom; provide capacity building support to legal professionals; promote freedom of expression through the provision of amicus curiae briefs; provide advocacy support to lawyers representing journalists; provide support to lawyers at risk through trial observations and international/domestic advocacy on their cases; offer assistance as a member of the legal network for journalists at risk.

Anticipated Completion

Protection of lawyers is IBAHRI's key mandate, but we intend to deliver on the capacity building by the end of 2024.

71. International Press Institute (IPI)

Commitment

The International Press Institute pledges to support the implementation of the 2022 Vienna Call for Action, which covers six sub-themes around protecting journalists' safety and security: gender; monitoring attacks; national safety mechanisms; impunity; digital threats; and the overall effectiveness of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. IPI commits to engaging with states and UN actors bringing our expertise built upon decades of experience supporting or advocating for independent journalism and press freedom across the globe to help ensure effective implementation of the recommendations.

Measurement

The success of this commitment will be measured through evidence that States and UN actors are working with relevant CSOs in meaningful ways to implement recommendations within the Vienna Call for Action (e.g. regular consultation, improved coordination, increased funding, etc.), as well as the development or strengthening of policies and practices that reflect its recommendations.

Since the adoption of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in 2012, stakeholders across sectors have convened at five-year intervals to take stock of collective progress, developments and good practices to promote journalist safety at national, regional and international levels. This would be a natural opportunity to measure the success of our commitment, though more regular evaluation and follow-up during other key international events, convenings, or countries' human rights reviews will be pursued in the interim.

Anticipated Completion

The Vienna Call for Action is a comprehensive set of recommendations that will require continuous multi-level advocacy with States, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders from the ICSO SoJ Coalition to achieve. The commitment will be complete when the Vienna Call for Action becomes a key leading reference for decision-makers who seek to support the safety of journalists.

72. IREX

Commitment

IREX is committed to expanding its Vibrant Information Approach (VIA) to a further 30 countries by 2028. VIA is a systems approach that builds a vibrant, resilient information and media system that can weather political, regulatory, and social threats, and that empowers people to seek out and use high-quality information to take positive transformative action. IREX will continue to employ VIA to improve human capability to advance freedom of expression by increasing opportunities and improving the abilities of all forms of media, as well as non-media institutions and individuals to create, protect, or maintain vibrant information.

Measurement

Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning data will track the number of countries as well as the impact of support.

Anticipated Completion

We will meet or exceed this commitment by 2028.

Additional Information

IREX's vibrant information approach is explained here: <https://www.irex.org/resource/vibrant-information-just-prosperous-and-inclusive-societies>

73. Media Alliance of Zimbabwe

Commitment

This is a commitment to advance freedom of expression through sustained efforts to ensure governments implement democratic laws and policies that ensure the media is editorially independent and sustainable in a conducive environment. The regulation of the media and the internet should be anchored more on advancing freedom of expression and restrictions to media freedom must be reasonable and justifiable. We commit to building synergies with other press freedom advocates, raise public awareness on their rights and to provide the necessary support technical or otherwise in realizing freedom of expression.

Measurement

We will assess the quality of reforms by way of laws and policies implemented. We will assess the quantity and quality of platforms established to promote freedom of expression. We will also track commitments made on press freedom by government.

Anticipated Completion

Will track the year 2023 into 2024.

74. Media Diversity Institute (MDI)

Commitment

MDI has been promoting this fundamental right since 1998 through our different multi-stakeholder (media actors, Civil Society and Media Educators) and multi-national programs. We see this fundamental right as important as the Right to Equality. We continue to demonstrate our commitment to the FoE by making sure that our stakeholders respect/include in their work ALL citizens regardless of their race, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexual orientation, physicals/mental abilities.

Measurement

We use our funders' M&E methods of measuring impact. For example, our Get the Trolls Out project, which is in its 7th year is funded by DRL, so in the case of this project we use the DRL method.

Anticipated Completion

By April 2023 we will have finished the current stage of the project. The report to the funder will contain a full independent M&E report.

75. Media Law Resource Center

Commitment

The Media Law Resource Center commits to advancing efforts to protect human rights involving freedom of expression and access to information through the adoption of Anti-SLAPP

laws and other measures to protect democracy.

Measurement

MLRC member, Laura Prather, has recently worked as a Fulbright Scholar and will be publishing in an international journal a comparative analysis of EU, UK, and US efforts in protecting freedom of expression and access to information through passage of Anti-SLAPP laws.

Anticipated Completion

By the end of 2023.

Additional Information

<https://www.law.com/international-edition/2022/06/13/u-s-free-speech-lawyer-to-study-how-meritless-lawsuits-affect-human-rights-in-eu/>

76. Media Monitoring Africa

Commitment

Through the development of a public complaints platform mitigating online harms, and through a multi-stakeholder approach, the risk of government intervention which will limit freedom of expression is significantly reduced.

Measurement

Success will be determined through the active use and application of the Real411 system and through the absence of introduction of ant freedom of expression laws that appear to address online harms including disinformation.

Anticipated Completion

2023

Additional Information

See www.real411.org.za

77. Media Voice (Media and Communication Educational and Research Center)

Commitment

- Raise awareness on Solidarity journalism and accurate covering of vulnerable groups;
- Strengthen freedom of expression and resilience in media by institutionalisation of solidarity among media outlets;
- Reduce self-censorship among sources and journalists
- Conduct studies focused on assessing the media environment, specific topics that are

the target of Russian disinformation (e.g. human rights, EU institutions and history).

- Strengthen monitoring of legislative initiatives related to media (e.g. laws on “foreign agents”)
- Improve democracy resilience by countering disinformation (considering local context).
- Contribute in increasing the trust towards media institution;
- Promote interdisciplinary e.g. journalism studies, media psychology, law studies, political sciences) modules and studies.

Measurement

- Implement solidarity journalism educational modules in academia;
- Conduct media solidarity forum;
- Number of journalists trained;
- Number of academic blogs, studies conducted;
- Number of updated educational/training modules for Universities and SCOs.

Anticipated Completion

2023-2024

Additional Information

Media Environment 2022: Threats and Supportive Instruments in Georgia: <https://bit.ly/3wSYqFW>

78. Panos Institute Southern Africa

Commitment

We commit to continue to lobby the Government of the Republic of Zambia to enact the Access to Information law by the first half year of 2023, and put in place practical systems and structures to facilitate its effective implementation once enacted.

Measurement

Actual enactment of the Access to Information law.

Anticipated Completion

By June 2023

79. Thomson Reuters Foundation

Commitment

The Thomson Reuters Foundation commits to building on existing legal programming to

expand access to legal support for journalists and independent media organizations in need, to help protect and defend them from the growing legal threats used to silence or punish their reporting on matters of public interest. The Thomson Reuters Foundation also commits to raising global awareness of the increasing array of sweeping and repressive legislative, regulatory and other legal threats to media freedom.

Measurement

The success of our commitment to expand access to legal support for journalists and independent media organizations will be assessed based on the increase in effective legal support facilitated through the Thomson Reuters Foundation's legal programmes, which may include: operational legal assistance for media organizations to strengthen their organizational health, sustainability and resilience; pre-publication legal review of content to reduce legal risk prior to publication; development of practical legal research, guides and capacity building, which increase journalists' and media outlets' legal acumen and mitigate risk from future legal actions; and referrals to the Legal Network for Journalists at Risk (LNJAR) for legal defence and strategic litigation. We will continuously assess and report on the success of this commitment, through regular evaluation of the programme and follow-up with those receiving and delivering the legal support.

The success of our commitment to raise global awareness of the increasing array of legal threats to media freedom will be achieved through the publication and widespread dissemination of the report *Weaponizing the Law: Attacks on Media Freedom*, which was prepared for the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the Tow Center for Digital Journalism. We will identify key convenings and events through which policymakers, intergovernmental organizations, advocates, academic institutions, the media, funders, and other stakeholders can be informed of the mounting and complex legal threats faced by journalists and of the action needed to address them.

Anticipated Completion

Our commitment to expand access to legal support for journalists and newsrooms will be ongoing. We expect the legal support facilitated through the Thomson Reuters Foundation's legal programme to evolve in scope and geographic reach over time to address changing needs.

In 2023, our commitment to raise global awareness of the increasing array of legal threats to media freedom will be deemed completed upon the launch and dissemination of the above-mentioned report (*Weaponizing the Law: Attacks on Media Freedom*) and the convening of global players at the frontlines of defending media freedom at the Perugia International

Journalism Festival (April 20), World Press Freedom Conference (May 3) and Trust Conference (October 19).

Additional Information

www.trust.org

www.medialegalhelp.org

WORKING GROUP 3

3. Bolstering Independent and Diverse Media

GOVERNMENT

80. Australia

Commitment

The Australian Government is providing an additional \$83.7 million in funding over 4 years commencing 2022-23 to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). The ABC will use this funding to increase investment in local content and education services and further improve critical emergency broadcasting services, particularly benefiting regional communities.

The Government has also announced it will move the ABC and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) to 5-year funding terms commencing 1 July 2023 to provide greater funding certainty.

The Government is also reviewing options to safeguard the ABC and SBS against political interference. This work will be informed by findings of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee inquiry into allegations of political interference to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Government has announced its commitment to delivering an Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy that includes increased funding to the ABC to boost Australian content and to project Australian identity, values and interests to the Indo-Pacific region.

Measurement

While the ABC and SBS are government funded, operational matters are the responsibility of the respective Boards and executives. The ABC and SBS remain accountable to the Australian Parliament for their use of funding through their annual reports, Government

audits and inquiries, and appearance before Parliament.

Anticipated Completion

Additional ABC funding (\$83.7M) – 2025-26

ABC and SBS 5-year funding terms – 2023-24

Additional Information

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/rowland/media-release/albanese-government-better-connect-inform-and-empower-australians>

81. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Support independent and diverse media by contributing funds towards media development initiatives, especially through the Transition Promotion Programme.

Measurement

The Czech Republic grants more than 1 million Euros each year to projects supporting independent media worldwide.

Anticipated Completion

Continuing support.

Additional Information

https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/foreign_relations/human_rights/transition_promotion_program/index.html

82. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Promote young promising journalists from the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Russia and Western Balkans by providing funding for Václav Havel and Jiri Dienstbier Journalism Fellowship Programs, developed and realized in close cooperation with our partner Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Measurement

Each year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic funds at least 8 fellowships for young aspiring journalists.

Anticipated Completion

Yearly support.

Additional Information

<https://pressroom.rferl.org/vaclav-havel-jiri-dienstbier-journalism-fellowships>

83. Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Commitment

Provide financial contributions to the UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund and the Digital Defenders Partnership programme initiated by the Freedom Online Coalition.

Measurement

The Czech Republic contributes yearly to the UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund.

Anticipated Completion

Yearly contribution.

84. Government of Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Commitment

DKK 10 million in support to the International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM) for 2023-2024. The aim is to:

- Sustain and support the survival of public interest media ecosystems and address ‘media extinction’ in low- and middle-income countries.
- Support transition to more sustainable, inclusive, and trusted media ecosystems, including through interventions at national level that provide an enabling environment for public interest media to survive, innovate, and expand reach.
- Development and implementation of systemic interventions at the national level that can provide the right enabling environment for public interest media to survive, innovate, and expand their reach.

Measurement

For reporting purposes an objective, a key outcome and outputs have been selected from IFPIMs monitoring framework to document progress.

Anticipated Completion

The commitment period is 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

85. German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and DW Akademie

Commitment

“Promote free and transparent media in times of crises”: The German Government continues

to engage in additional media development in times of crisis for a second year in a row — though considerable additional funding. The focus shifted from supporting media development from the corona-crisis (commitment made in 2021) towards the crisis in Ukraine caused by the Russian war of aggression and also to neighboring countries as well as its repercussions on other continents.

Three examples for promising projects are:

1. Colmena: Through the Open Source Software Colmena it becomes possible for newsrooms to plan, record, edit and publish radio broadcasts and news texts on their smartphones. This enables journalists to keep working even under very difficult circumstances. (Latin America, Africa and MENA)

2. The Crisis Communication Chapters bring different stakeholders together to find solutions for informing vulnerable parts of society. Representatives of administration, civil society, media houses come together to build trust and to find solutions. (Mongolia, Kenya, Zambia, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan)

3. The Unfreedom Monitor: is a project we did jointly with Global Voices to make Digital Authoritarianism visible by systematically analysing the measures certain governments take to limit the freedom of their citizens.

Measurement

The results of the commitment above will be analyzed after the termination of the projects. Best practices will be identified and lessons learned reflected.

Anticipated Completion

In the course of 2023.

Additional Information

2021: <https://akademie.dw.com/en/initiative-transparency-and-media-freedom-crisis-resilience-in-the-pandemic/a-57443977>

2022 and 2023: <https://corporate.dw.com/en/roundtable-with-germanys-development-minister-in-georgia-information-warfare-does-not-stop-at-borders/a-62315713>

86. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK commits to working with partners, and through OECD, to develop strong new principles for effective media assistance.

Measurement

Success measured by: New principles for media assistance agreed through Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.

Anticipated Completion

End December 2024

87. United Kingdom, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Commitment

The UK will bring forward a suite of domestic activity to build user resilience to mis- and disinformation; promote the development and uptake of literacy by design provisions by online platforms; and consider options for a package of government support towards the sustainability and freedom of the domestic press sector.

Measurement

Success measured by: Establishing a Media Literacy Taskforce composed of cross-sector UK experts including major internet platforms. Establishing a grant scheme to support organisations to deliver media literacy interventions. Establishing a Media Literacy Research Programme. Establishing a new pro-competition regime to rebalance the relationship between major tech platforms and those who rely on them, such as news publishers.

Anticipated Completion

End March 2025

BUSINESSES

88. Globe Telecom, Inc.

Commitment

Globe committed to direct programmatic ad spending to online news sites verified by Internews, including small / independent outlets that have limited access to media investments from a major enterprise. Globe is the first in the industry to partner with Internews, and shares its goal of promoting a safe online environment. Globe's goal is to bring to the fore what journalism ought to be: a chronicle of truth, a source of quality and useful information that could help communities realize their full potential. Globe committed ~Php2M to place advertisements on a chosen selection of trusted local news websites.

Measurement

Number of target impressions and reach across identified publications and websites within

the inclusion list.

Anticipated Completion

End of April 2023

Additional Information

<https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/newsroom/sustainability/globe-partners-with-internews.html#gref>

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/05/22/globe-partners-with-internews-to-boost-quality-journalism-fight-fake-news>

<https://www.bworldonline.com/spotlight/2022/09/05/472479/truthinaction-globe-partners-with-internews-to-support-quality-journalism-fight-fake-news/>

89. Microsoft, Democracy Forward Initiative

Commitment

Microsoft's Democracy Forward team is delighted to update on our commitment to address the accelerating crisis facing journalism by working in partnership with local community organizations to help support local newsrooms through our Journalism initiative. The initiative aims to provide journalists and local newsrooms with new sustainable revenue streams, modern journalism tools and technology, enhanced legal and cyber-security, and additional distribution opportunities to expand reach and audience growth. The program supports these newsrooms and journalists as they use technology to tell stories in new ways, find new revenue streams, and work together with community organizations. We will continue to expand our efforts internationally, and leverage technology through multisector partnerships to work toward these goals.

Measurement

To achieve our commitments, we will:

- Provide direct funding for operating costs, to bolster collaboration and attract matching funding and resources from foundations and other local or regional businesses.
- Up level technology through donations, deeply discounted software products and services from Microsoft and others.
- Build capacity around technology transformation and technical support; business intelligence including customer-based analytics; and, modern journalism skills like data journalism, using AI and machine learning tools and technology built specifically for journalists, audio and video production, and modern storytelling.
- Expand news distribution through access to the Microsoft News and Bing search

platforms for increased reach locally, regionally, and nationally to increase brand recognition and generate additional sources of revenue.

Additional Information

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility/protecting-journalism?activetab=pivot_1:primaryr4

90. WPP & GroupM

Commitment

WPP and GroupM commit to:

- Add the domains, vetted by Internews' Ads for News initiative for responsible journalism, in local media supply offered to clients.
- Create dedicated marketplaces exclusively with domains vetted by Internews' Ads for News, for responsible journalism, in our top markets.
- Drive awareness among our clients about the importance of investing in responsible journalism titles.
- Drive awareness in the industry about the importance of investing in responsible journalism.
- Measurement
- The number of markets in which domains vetted by Internews' Ads for News are included in local supply.
- The number of markets where dedicated responsible journalism marketplaces are created.

Anticipated Completion

We are actively working on meeting the commitment by the end of 2023.

Additional Information

<https://www.groupm.com/newsroom/groupm-introduces-back-to-news-initiative-to-drive-investment-in-responsible-journalism/>

CIVIL SOCIETY

91. Article 19

Commitment

ARTICLE 19 will continue its advocacy for stronger international and regional standards on

media freedom, independence and pluralism, in particular the efforts against dangerous concentration of media ownership and political interference in editorial independence to address online monopolies that restrict this diversity.

Measurement

Yearly monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.

Anticipated Completion

Regular work, with revised targets set yearly.

Additional Information

<https://www.article19.org/issue/media-and-information-literacy/>

92. BBC Media Action

Commitment

Reaching audiences of over 100m people annually and with committed media support presence in numerous fragile and conflict-affected contexts, BBC Media Action pledges innovation in advancing strong, diverse media ecosystems. This includes (i) furthering country-driven, coalition-based solutions to media viability using the National Action Plan model we developed in Sierra Leone in 2021 (ii) testing/scaling our pioneering approaches to pre- and debunking disinformation (iii) expanding access to vital audience research. It pledges support to international efforts towards long-term, structural responses to the crises confronting independent media, such as the BBC Media Action conceived International Fund for Public Interest Media.

Measurement

BBC Media Action invests heavily in research and learning across all its programming and each commitment made here will be measured in line with this overall commitment to measuring impact, generating evidence of what works and informing future media support interventions.

Anticipated Completion

BBC Media Action takes a long term approach to its media support programming and so each commitment will have short, medium and long term deliverables with assessment being measured at least every year.

Additional Information

BBC Media Action's Approach to Supporting Healthy Media Ecosystems: <https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/approaches-media-ecosystems.pdf>

BBC Media Action Approach to Tackling Information Disorder <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>

[mediaaction/our-work/information-disorder](#)

Feasibility Study for International Fund for Public Interest Media <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/publications-and-resources/policy/briefings/feasibility-study-ifpim>

Sierra Leone National Conference on future of media <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/our-work/media-development/primed-project/sierra-leone-conference/>

Protecting Independent Media for Effective Development (PRIMED) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/our-work/media-development/PRIMED-project/>

93. Brands4News.org

Commitment

Deploy — at-scale — deliberate quality journalism allocation models of advertising investments by working with leading agency networks and brand advertisers to build verified inclusion lists into media planning processes.

Measurement

Success is measured in public commitments of primary agency networks (WPP, Omnicom, Publicis, IPG, Havas, Dentsu), large domestic independents, and large advertiser brands. 2023 is about achieving deployment and reporting on \$ impact.

Anticipated Completion

Ongoing effort

Additional Information

<https://brands4news.org>

94. Center for Media Viability and Development

Commitment

CoMVID is in the area of capacity building in Media Viability capacity building where we aspire to ensure Editorial Freedom through financially sustainable media houses that write stories that are relevant and in touch with audience needs.

Measurement

As a newly registered organization, The Center of Media Viability and Development commits to developing an innovative digital transformation program that will help in capacity building, mentoring and coaching SME media house managers for sustainable media houses and editorial freedom.

Anticipated Completion

We intend to develop the curriculum and boot camp event for this program by Spring 2025.

Additional Information

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ligmBtWZGMpOI9CKs-DFmrOL3o-6bN6t/view?usp=share_link

95. Eastern Africa Editors' Society

Commitment

Mentor and collaborate with journalist associations and other media support organizations in the Eastern Africa region to protect the centrality of public journalism as entities seek business model restructuring and as regulators entrench in the national spaces.

Measurement

Number of collaborating organisations, convenings, empowerment for editors in leadership.

Anticipated Completion

Ongoing, with annual reviews and validation.

Additional Information

www.eaeditors.org

96. Fondation Hirondelle

Commitment

We will share 28 years of practical experience in building and managing independent and diverse media in some of the less developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Measurement

We can participate in 2 workshops, including one that we could organize, making sure that we invite and include some of our partners and local/francophones colleagues who are often left-over or forgotten in international fora. These workshops would be the basis for a publication that would be a compilation of lessons and best practices for supporting independent media in fragile and shrinking spaces.

Anticipated Completion

The 2 events could take place within an 8-month period, as of May 2023, and the publication be ready by May 2024.

Additional Information

Here are some useful links re: the kind of resources and people we can engage to the workshops: <https://www.hirondelle.org/en/>

[newsletters/1183-the-vital-role-of-journalism-in-times-of-crisis-mediation-n-5-june-2020](https://www.hirondelle.org/en/newsletters/1183-the-vital-role-of-journalism-in-times-of-crisis-mediation-n-5-june-2020)
<https://www.hirondelle.org/en/newsletters/1723-financing-independent-media-a-global-challenge-mediation-n-9-july-2022>
<https://www.hirondelle.org/en/guides/938-our-guide-on-radio-communication-in-a-humanitarian-context-with-the-icrc>

97. Fondation Hirondelle

Commitment

Fondation Hirondelle commits to provide its journalistic expertise and support to traditional media in fragile contexts and wherever local, global and information crises justify its intervention, while complementing it with skills and capacities in the digital domain, in order to implement a hybrid media approach, online and offline, at the intersection of the needs of the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus and to help achieve SDG#16.

Measurement

Improvement in the use of digital tools and techniques for local media in fragile contexts (# of partners and journalists trained); systematic measurements of audiences' needs and preferred access to information (regular surveys); media solutions to be adaptive and efficient throughout the nexus (annual review and adaptation plan).

Anticipated Completion

by 2028

Additional Information

Fondation Hirondelle's current strategy: <https://www.hirondelle.org/pdfviewer/?lang=en&id=435>

98. Free Press Unlimited

Commitment

To continue the development of country-based projects that provide public interest information to underserved communities and audience segments in conflict prone societies and countries in transition, produced by ethics-based journalism and independent media outlets.

Free Press Unlimited will continue to build cross-border collaborations networks of journalists — based on a model developed in Eastern Europe — that improve their business model, resilience and viability. This program will continue for the coming 4 years.

We aim to expand our advocacy for fair (digital) market regulation — including fair advertisement markets — enabling pluralist information eco-systems that will allow public interest journalism to survive and thrive.

Measurement

1. The number of country-based projects that improve and grow sustainable public interest journalism in those contexts.
2. The number of cross border collaboration created and nurtured.
3. The number of state actors that engage to create fair market regulation that gives ethics-based journalism a boost (through models of taxation, independent funding mechanisms or more productive advertisement distribution).

Anticipated Completion

1. An increase in the amount of available donor money by media development grows towards 1% of ODA for all OECD states. This benchmark needs to be achieved in the coming three years.
 2. The urgency requests tangible results of market regulation from states in the coming 3-5 years.
- Disclaimer: Currently states are unwilling to do what is necessary to re-organise markets and social media & tech corporations escape their responsibilities.

Additional Information

<https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/themes/enabling-environment/enabling-environment-pillars/>

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/current/39-investigations-ten-different-languages-published-under-ciji-project>

<https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/themes/media-viability/what-can-a-media-outlet-do/>

<https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/evidence/primed-media-viability-learning-brief/>

<https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/evidence/media-market-and-audience-study-in-central-america-estudio-de-mercado-y-audiencias-de-medios-de-comunicacion-en-america-central/>

99. Free Press

Commitment

Over the next three years, Free Press commits to growing the local news and civic information field, and advocating for policies to invest public funds into community-centered journalism in five US states and cities.

Anticipated Completion

2026

Additional Information

The Free Press Action Fund supports initiatives like the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium, an independent nonprofit that invests public and philanthropic funding into

strengthening local news and information in the state. A first-of-its-kind in the US, it was created by the state in 2018, after a grassroots campaign led by Free Press Action mobilized thousands of residents in support of the idea which led to wide bipartisan support. In its first two years of operation, the Consortium received \$6.5 million in public funding and \$600,000 from foundations. With that money, the Consortium awarded a total of 53 grants to support a geographically and racially diverse group of 35 local news organizations, media startups and news outlets that serve and represent urban, suburban, rural, BIPOC and immigrant communities.

In addition, the funding has enabled the Consortium to support training programs and general operations of the organization. Over the first two years, the Consortium has awarded grants to primarily Black and Latinx-led start-up media initiatives that center the experiences of communities often underserved by local news and media.

California followed suit in 2022, when it allocated \$25 million to create the California Local Journalism Fellowship program at UC Berkeley. The creation of the program came after a multi-stakeholder coalition led by California Common Cause, Latino Media Collaborative, Free Press, and a collection of representatives from legacy, startup, and labor, advocated for lawmakers to take action on the local news crisis in the state. The program will place early-career journalists in underserved communities around the state starting in the Fall 2023.

Civic Info Bill case study: https://www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/2022-09/nj_civic_info_bill_case_study_september_2022.pdf

Why the Civic Info Bill is Such a Big Deal: <https://www.freepress.net/blog/why-civic-info-consortium-such-huge-deal>

Nieman Lab: <https://www.niemanlab.org/2019/07/how-free-press-convincing-new-jersey-to-allocate-2-million-for-rehabilitating-local-news/>

NJCIC website: njcivicinfo.org

CA Local News Fellowship website: <https://projects.journalism.berkeley.edu/cafellows/>

100. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) and the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA)

Commitment

Renewing Principles on Effective Support to Journalism and Media: The Global Forum for Media Development and the Center for International Media Assistance, will advance our engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) to strengthen and reinforce effective international support to the media sector through a process that updates and codifies guiding principles.

GFMD and CIMA will work with representatives from bilateral donor agencies, implementing organizations, civil society representatives, and media development experts to use such principles to inform a roadmap for collective action to benefit the media sector.

Measurement

Success of this commitment will be judged by whether the principles for effective media development have been officially adopted and incorporated into the work of key sector bodies, institutions and mechanisms.

Firstly, we hope that the Network on Governance (GovNet) of the OECD DAC will have finalized and officially adopted the principles by the end of 2023. Subsequently, we hope that the Council of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) — having given the OECD DAC process non-binding endorsement on November 25, 2022 — recognizes the principles at its November 2023 meeting. Further adoption and endorsement will be sought from Media Freedom Coalition member states by the end of 2023.

At a sectoral level, GFMD will update its code of practice — which serves as a statement that GFMD members are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, governance, financial transparency and accountability — to ensure that its member organizations adopt the principles to drive better practice and more equitable relationships across the media support sector.

Anticipated Completion

The timeline is outlined in detail above. As well as being endorsed and adopted by the OECD DAC, UNESCO IPDC and MFC by the end of 2023, beyond the Year of Action, GFMD will continue to work with all stakeholders to operationalize and monitor the implementation of the principles.

Additional Information

This process for renewing the principles for effective media development began on December 7, 2021 when CIMA and GFMD hosted a webinar on principles for media development which was one of over 40 events held as part of the Global Democracy Coalition Forum, a virtual 24-hour event convened to provide recommendations to the Summit for Democracy. The webinar, which heard from four civil society and media development stakeholders, as well as representatives from UK FCDO and UNESCO, distilled three recommendations to the Summit for Democracy:

<https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/principles-Dec-2021#recommendations-to-the-summit-for-democracy>

<https://globaldemocracycoalition.org/recommendations/>

<https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/news/news-pdfs/Recommendations%20to%20the%20Summit%20for%20Democracy%20%28Final%29.pdf> (p39)

The full series of consultations during 2021 and 2022 among major stakeholders in the field of media development, which has included almost 200 representatives from bilateral donor agencies, implementing organizations, civil society representatives, and media development experts can be found here: <https://impact.gfmd.info/activities-services/mediadev-principles>

This document, developed jointly by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) and the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), describes the need to strengthen and reinforce effective international support to the media sector through a process that updates and codifies guiding principles. It calls for calling for increased engagement by the Summit for Democracy (via Media Freedom Cohort) and the Media Freedom Coalition to renew, adopt, and operationalize the principles identified and articulated in the OECD DAC GovNet in the process to renew effective support to journalism and media identified and articulated in the OECD DAC GovNet. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VXZKXTAjz32jW_29p1DlOc7OLtwjvv0gAZFym2ep81o/edit?usp=sharing

GFMD's current code of practice — which will be updated inline with the principles adopted by OECD DAC GovNet — is available here: <https://strategy.gfmd.info/governance/code-of-practice>

101. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

Commitment

GFMD's International Media Policy and Advisory Centre (GFMD IMPACT) will scale up its learning and knowledge-sharing efforts serving the international journalism support and media development community. We will do this by; 1) Facilitating meetings of policy-makers, donors, practitioners and academia to enable knowledge sharing, experience exchange, learning and collaboration; 2) Commissioning research, publishing findings and curating the most relevant resources for the sector 3) Managing a "Help Desk" function, which uses GFMD's network of experts and curated resources to serve as a flexible, rapid response mechanism capable of responding to requests from donors and policymakers in a timely manner.

Measurement

Activities: In 2023 GFMD IMPACT will convene at least six policy and learning meetings on major policy areas for learning exchange and discussion.

Outputs: GFMD IMPACT's policy and learning activities will result in at least six policy briefings to inform the media support sector.

Outcomes: The overall success of GFMD IMPACT in its mission — to offer donor agencies,

philanthropic organizations, and media support actors required insights, and a range of tools and resources for informing strategy, programme, and project design, as well as monitoring and evaluation processes — will be subject to external evaluation with the initial assessment published by the end of 2023.

Anticipated Completion

This commitment will be completed by the end of 2023.

However, GFMD IMPACT (and its supporters) commit to matching these commitments in 2024 and beyond (funding permitting).

Additional Information

Further information about the work of GFMD IMPACT and its help desk function is available here: <https://gfmd.info/h-content/uploads/2023/02/GFMD-IMPACT-Help-Desk-2022-gfmd.pdf>

The GFMD IMPACT help desk: <https://impact.gfmd.info/activities-services/help-desk>

For an example of the research that GFMD IMPACT will continue to commission and peer review with the sector see “Coordinating media assistance and journalism support efforts — 2022”

Summary of the key finding and recommendations (4 pages) <https://gfmd.info/briefings/coordinating-media-assistance-journalism-support/>

The full report (40 pages) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SXCDFckkWpLspe-jBA49ecYGHoE8baHdNEfz2tnzsWX4/edit?usp=sharing>

So far in 2023, three GFMD IMPACT policy and learning meetings have been convened on media viability in Lebanon, Namibia, and Tunisia in collaboration with UNESCO IPDC:

<https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/unesco-media-viability-jan-23/lebanon>

<https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/unesco-media-viability-jan-23/namibia>

<https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/unesco-media-viability-jan-23/tunisia>

Details of all GFMD IMPACT policy and learning meetings are available here:

<https://impact.gfmd.info/activities-services/learning>

102. The Guardian Foundation

Commitment

We commit to accelerating our media viability work, connecting and collaborating with more journalists and news organisations on areas they identify as challenging their viability. This will broaden the scale and depth of the impact for media in a greater number of regions, fostering their capacity to engage people with fact-based journalism.

Measurement

Meaningful monitoring and evaluation methods will be employed. These will be tailored around the needs identified by media organisations and incorporate qualitative and quantitative measures that demonstrate the depth of impact for the media organisations themselves.

Anticipated Completion

Initial growth in impact by March 2024 and ongoing as part of our 5-year strategy.

Additional Information

<https://theguardianfoundation.org/>

103. Institute for War and Peace Reporting (Latin America and Caribbean Division)

Commitment

To support at least 200 journalists and 70 media outlets in Latin America and the Caribbean increase their capacity to face the multiple challenges in the region, including but not limited financial sustainability, security, journalism capacity and developing new ways to counter disinformation.

Measurement

Number of independent media outlets supported, number of journalists trained or supported, number of investigative reports produced, number of new income generating initiatives piloted, changes to the reach and engagement of stories, number of journalistic collaborations. We will also use qualitative evaluation tools to measure the extent of change in attitudes and capacity amongst key stakeholders.

Anticipated Completion

By June 30, 2024

Additional Information

<https://www.capir.net/>

<https://iwpr.net/projects/latin-america-caribbean>

104. International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

Commitment

ICFJ will provide training, mentoring and funding to help independent media outlets, especially in countries with strong government repression, develop new strategies for financial sustainability. ICFJ will provide help in business strategy, operations and finance, technology and new media, and communications and marketing. ICFJ will rigorously analyze the learnings from the training, mentoring and funding, and will disseminate lessons learned and best practices on its International Journalists' Network (IJNet) website, which reaches

about 200,000 journalists a month in eight languages.

Measurement

ICFJ will measure the number of outlets served; demographics of their leadership; indicators of improvements (or lack thereof) in financial sustainability (such as number of new revenue sources, increase in membership, increase in advertising income, number of new products developed, etc.); survey information from participants about the usefulness of the program; and reach of stories about lessons learned on IJNet.

Anticipated Completion

The program will be complete by the end of 2023, but if successful ICFJ will continue it with new cohorts into the future.

Additional Information

<https://www.icfj.org/news/elevate-icfjs-news-business-hub-help-new-cohort-media-entrepreneurs-thrive>

105. International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM)

Commitment

IFPIM will formally launch the International Fund's operations with the backing of a growing multilateral and multistakeholder coalition. During our two year 'proof of concept', we will deploy more than 20m\$ in support to public interest media and to initiatives improving enabling economic conditions for independent journalism in low and middle income countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe. In supporting economic resilience of media organisations and fostering pathways towards sustainable funding models for independent journalism, IFPIM will pay particular attention to fostering representation and diversity in newsrooms and to encouraging efforts to engage younger audiences

Measurement

We will be reporting publicly on our support to public interest media organizations and will invest throughout the two years of the proof of concept in assessing the hypothesis underpinning the creation of the International Fund.

Anticipated Completion

IFPIM 2 year proof of concept: April 2023-March 2025.

Additional Information

ifpim.org

106. Internews

Commitment

Ads for News (<https://adsfornews.org>) is an Internews initiative that promotes trusted, local news media advertising to leading brands and media investment agencies so that more programmatic advertising spend reaches those media outlets and that misinformation, disinformation and bad actors are defunded.

- Internews will strengthen connections to the private sector to engage leading brands and media investment agencies — globally and locally — in buying programmatic advertising from trusted, local news media.
- Internews will integrate Ads for News into the Media Viability Accelerator so that more media outlets can benefit from increased spend by leading brands and media investment agencies.

Measurement

- Number of countries in which Ads for News has created lists of trusted, local news media for targeting by leading brands and their media investment agencies
- Number of media outlets indexed by Ads for News in those countries
- Impact of leading brands and media investment agencies committing programmatic advertising budgets to trusted, local news media vetted by Ads for News
- Ability for trusted media, brands and media investment agencies to access Ads for News from within the Media Viability Accelerator online platform

Anticipated Completion

December 31, 2023

Additional Information

#TruthInAction: Globe Partners With Internews To Support Quality Journalism, Fight Fake News in Industry First: <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/newsroom/sustainability/globe-partners-with-internews.html#gref>

107. IREX

Commitment

IREX is committed to advancing media sustainability through advanced analytics, equipping 50% of new media partners with the tools to facilitate data-driven decision-making in at least 25 countries by 2028.

Measurement

Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning data will measure progress toward the target

of at least 50% of our new media partners in at least 25 countries.

Anticipated Completion

We will meet or exceed this commitment by 2028.

108. IREX

Commitment

IREX is committed to enhancing local actors' capacity to better understand and measure how information is produced, spread, consumed through leveraging and localizing IREX's Vibrant Information Barometer (VIBE), an annual study currently conducted in 25 countries. VIBE measures the capacity of information systems to support individuals, civil societies, governments, and democratic norms. By better understanding the challenges and opportunities around information flow in each country, donors, policy-makers, implementers and partner countries can help contribute to resilient and sustainable information systems, as well as ensure that people have the skills and tools they need to keep up with these rapidly changing information systems.

*submitted as a cross-cutting commitment, spanning all working groups

Measurement

Project Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Data as well as IREX's VIBE dashboard.

Anticipated Completion

We will meet or exceed this commitment by 2028.

Additional Information

IREX's data dashboard makes available the VIBE data from the Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asian country studies: <https://vibe.irex.org/>

109. Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) — Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Commitment

RSF commits to develop and operate the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI), a tool allowing trustworthy sources of information to be clearly identifiable online.

The Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) standard is a voluntary, self-regulatory and certifiable ISO-type universal standard developed under the aegis of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN Workshop Agreement 17493). It translates existing ethical and professional standards of journalism into machine-readable code, to be used by online platforms to provide users with indicators of the trustworthiness of an information source online. This

allows reliable journalism to clearly distinguish itself from other content online, providing it with a competitive advantage online. JTI can also be used by advertisers, public development and media support institutions, public regulators and other institutions as well as philanthropists to identify and support trustworthy journalistic media.

Measurement

RSF will measure the number of media outlets that self-assessed their compliance with the JTI, and the number of media outlets that obtained certification under the JTI.

RSF will measure the volume of traffic for trustworthy sources generated thanks to the trustworthiness indicators.

RSF will measure regularly the number of publishers who have improved their journalistic practices after being assessed on the disclosed criteria and whose conformity, respectively trustworthiness scores thereby improved.

RSF will publish self-evaluation and certification results of conforming entities as well as related statistics and analysis on engagement and conformity assessment, including complaints management.

Additional Information

<https://www.journalismtrustinitiative.org/>

<https://rsf.org/en/journalism-trust-initiative>

https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/cwa17493_0.pdf

<https://rsf.org/en/launched-may-18-jti-online-platform-represents-new-dawn-media-integrity-transparency-and>

110. Journalists for Human Rights

Commitment

JHR trains and supports journalists in Kenya, the DRC, Tunisia, and works with Syrian journalists to produce media about human rights, women's and girls' rights, and democracy. JHR's programming consists of training workshops for journalists and journalism students, editors, and media managers; providing mentorship to produce stories, documentaries, and radio shows; and networks, including civil society organizations that strengthen and support media about human rights issues. This program contributes to a stronger media environment so people can be informed about their human rights and hold authorities accountable. This program will run up to 2024.

Measurement

The success will be measured through regular M & E and reported to Global Affairs Canada.

Anticipated Completion

The end of 2024.

111. La Liga Contra el Silencio (Colombia)

Commitment

For the following three years, La Liga Contra el Silencio will strengthen its mission to fight against silence in Colombia by creating new ways to support and incentivize investigative journalism on silenced issues. We will innovate how journalistic storytelling is produced and distributed among new audiences with new modes of engaging with digital content. This means broadening the definition of what is traditionally considered silenced stories — e.g., corruption, organized crime — through the lens of critical, progressive topics such as addressing gender-based violence, racial profiling and emerging social and political movements. This will be achieved by holding an editorial fund that promotes collaborative work between our media allies, regional reporters, and other social organizations and think tanks.

Measurement

In a 30-month program, Ruido! will impact, in a first cycle, a maximum of 30 media outlets. Then, 15 of these media outlets will go through a second cycle of incubation and project design. Finally, in the third cycle, a maximum of 7 media outlets will receive acceleration capital of up to USD\$25,000 and intensive support for the implementation of the plan. The program will also grant incentives for participation during its different stages and funding for journalistic production. The incubation program will offer more than 110 hours of training, 450 hours of technical and tactical consultancies for strategic plan design, 380 hours of one-on-one mentoring, and 630 hours of implementation support. La Liga is in search of funding for this incubation program.

Anticipated Completion

This a 30-month program. Its start depends on the fundraising process.

112. Media Council of Kenya (MCK)

Commitment

MCK will support the Kenya media industry to deal with market collapse and find business solutions to media's financial crisis exacerbated by COVID-19. Using available resources MCK will focus on institutional management and business-development capacity-building: trainings will help media managers identify and choose the most relevant business models and practices that fit with their missions and operating conditions. Community media will be supported technically and financially to develop alternative revenue schemes. MCK will aim to establish a competitive Open Media Fund, to provide financial support and mentoring

to individual media houses and journalists to develop targeted content, and transition to digital media.

Measurement

Our targets are clearly set out in our Strategic Plan 2018-2023. Besides, MCK signs a PC with the government of crystalized deliverables. Other than that we apply the theory of change in most of our approaches with the media and civic space.

Anticipated Completion

End of June, calendar for the financial year 2022-2023, we will provide a preliminary report and an assessment on progress.

Additional Information

See Internews: <https://internews.org/story/how-covid-19-complicated-kenyas-media-sustainability-problems>.

See relief Web: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/2020-pandemic-has-challenged-press-freedom-africa>

See Business Today: <https://businesstoday.co.ke/nmg-changes-big-names-out-as-nmg-kicks-out-senior-journalists/>

113. Media Development Investment Fund

Commitment

To make at least 70 loan or equity investments in independent media companies in at least 26 countries where access to quality reliable news and information is under threat.

Measurement

Investment records.

Anticipated Completion

December 31, 2025

Additional Information

<https://www.mdif.org/>

114. Media Development Investment Fund

Commitment

To raise a further \$55 million for Pluralis to invest in independent media companies in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, bringing the total funding raised for Pluralis to \$100 million. MDIF co-founded Pluralis in 2021 to support media pluralism and help secure

the editorial independence of media in European countries where capture is prevalent and access to independent news and information is under threat.

Measurement

Investment records.

Anticipated Completion

December 31, 2025

Additional Information

<https://www.pluralis.media/>

115. Media Diversity Institute

Commitment

MDI will continue to support and enable Media to be diverse in their content and reporting.

Measurement

They will be measured via project logframes and internal and external evaluations.

Anticipated Completion

They are embedded in our programmes therefore they do not have an end date.

116. Media Institute of the Caribbean

Commitment

The establishment of a Freedom of Information Help Desk for journalists and small independent news agencies who lack resources (legal and financial) towards their investigative journalism.

Measurement

By the number of successful responses to the FOI and ATI requests.

Anticipated Completion

Help desk launch on January 16th 2023

Additional Information

<https://form.typeform.com/to/kTKnOID0?typeform-source=www.mediainstituteofthecaribbean.com>

<https://www.mediainstituteofthecaribbean.com/press-releases/release-media-institute-of-the-caribbean-pioneers-freedom-of-information-initiative>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gW6PDW9eFA3JI3DI3g8FD4oxB4R9CjQ/>

[view?ts=63d88432](#)

117. Media Monitoring Africa

Commitment

Media Monitoring Africa will work with the public broadcaster, the SABC to deepen use, respect and application of their editorial policies which will contribute directly to fulfilling their public service mandate and protect and promote the independence of the SABC.

Measurement

We will carry out interviews and before and after training assessments with key SABC personnel and journalists.

Anticipated Completion

by the end of 2023

Additional Information

SABC editorial policies are really strong and can be found here: http://web.sabc.co.za/digital/stage/editorialpolicies/SABC_Editorial_Policies_2020.pdf

118. Media Viability Accelerator – Internews

Commitment

Internews, alongside partner organizations, leads implementation of the Media Viability Accelerator (MVA) announced at the first Summit for Democracy. A new web-based platform, the MVA will help media compete more effectively for audiences and revenues by learning from the performance of peers globally and participating in a marketplace of those that can help.

- Internews will support MVA implementation within its programs, creating greater agency for media in their survival and growth through improved collaboration and use of context-relevant business data.
- Internews will strengthen connections to the private sector to bring leading businesses and technologists into the MVA in support of independent media.
- Measurement
- Number of Internews' program teams using the MVA
- Number of Internews' media outlet partners using the MVA and sharing their data

with Internews

- Self-reported frequency of MVA use by Internews' media outlet partners
- Number of Internews' media outlet partners self-reporting increased agency in their survival and growth through improved collaboration and use of context-relevant business data
- Impact of Internews bringing leading private sector actors to the MVA initiative in support of independent media

Anticipated Completion

Based on the MVA being launched by December 2023, these commitments will be monitored between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2024.

Additional Information

Media Viability Accelerator announcement at the first Summit for Democracy:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/09/fact-sheet-announcing-the-presidential-initiative-for-democratic-renewal>

119. Prudent Stewards Foundation (PSF)

Commitment

The importance of marrying words with action cannot be overstated or emphasized. As a bona fide Zimbabwean CSO with interest in youth and women empowerment, the scope of our commitment is to create a media platform for accelerating action for research and documenting stories of African Integration or development issues e.g the SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AFCFTA) and so many others.

Measurement

All things being equal in terms of funding and other essential resources, the project should be up and running in the first quarter of 2023 and should have four editions spread across the four quarters of this year.

Anticipated Completion

Hopefully year end (2023)

120. Public Media Alliance (PMA)

Commitment

Alongside working to provide support and advocacy to public media globally, the Public Media Alliance [PMA] pledges to create and launch a new online campaign providing supporters of public media in broader society with a platform to publicly acknowledge the recognised

role of independent public media in underpinning informed democracy worldwide. Through this platform and the community of public media supporters which it brings together, we will consolidate and amplify support for public media globally, while demonstrating its values to those who may seek to undermine it.

Measurement

- 50+ commitments from global CSOs, media organisations and other public media stakeholders
- Campaign shared with 10+ governments and multilateral organisations.

Anticipated Completion

Identified targets will be hit by December 2023, but we envision continuing with our commitment beyond this timeline.

Additional Information

Launch date to be confirmed.

121. Rural Daily Nawa-I-AhmedPurSharqia, Pakistan

Commitment

33-year-old newspaper Daily Nawa-I-AhmedpurSharqia will mount its website in English language and will continue its support to RMNP for organising WPF and IEDI seminars.

Measurement

Daily Nawa English website will be useful in highlighting the hidden incidents of violence against women in rural Pakistan of which several areas are in the grip of feudal and religious extremists. The voice of the people living in far-flung and most impoverished areas will be heard at provincial, national and international level. Similarly WPF and IEDI seminars will provide a platform to rural press clubs, journalists unions and journalists to discuss and formulate a joint strategy in defending press freedom and for the promotion of freedom of expression in rural Pakistan.

Anticipated Completion

Daily Nawa-I-AhmedpurSharqia English language website will be mounted in the second quarter of the current year and we do hope to get Google and others advertisements in the third quarter for this website. It will increase the revenue of the newspaper. Moreover RMNP WPF and IEDI seminar will be organised on 3rd May 2023 and 2nd November 2023 respectively in collaboration with Daily Nawa-I-AhmedPurSharqia. New press freedom monitoring committees will be established and RMNP press freedom monitoring network will be expanded.

Additional Information

<https://dailynaps.com.pk/>

<https://dailynaps.com.pk/journalists-use-the-journalist-protection-and-welfare-bill/>

<http://commonwealthjournalists.org/2022/11/21/xxxxxxxxxxx/>

<http://commonwealthjournalists.org/2021/12/07/xxxxxxxxxxx/>

122. Thomson Reuters Foundation

Commitment

Thomson Reuters Foundation commits to review and refine its newsroom and journalism offerings in response to the current needs of media across the Global South and Emerging Economies by integrating insights from our alumni journalism network, as well as learnings from the wider media development sector.

We commit to disseminating insights on the most pressing media development needs and solutions gathered from our alumni journalism network, and the wider media development community, to act as a conduit of information between these two stakeholder groups, coordinate efforts and ensure resources are used effectively and lessons shared promptly to strengthen the ecosystem.

Measurement

TRF will update in 2023 its 'Newsroom Advisories' capacity-building model as well as its journalism curricula to include more up-to-date digital tools and learning around online safety, cyber security, and legal support to respond to insights from our alumni journalism network, the media development community and the sector's fast-changing needs. We aim to reach at least 50% of our beneficiaries with an updated curriculum this year.

TRF will produce insights and analysis that synthesise findings from journalism alumni network, its capacity building projects and learnings from media development community to inform best practice on how development projects engage with the wider community. We commit to launching these insight reports in 2023.

Anticipated Completion

End 2023

Additional Information

www.trust.org

<https://covid-report.trust.org/>

<https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/our-purpose/>

[thomson-reuters-foundations-trust-conference-driving-global-change/](https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/our-purpose/thomson-reuters-foundations-trust-conference-driving-global-change/)

Annex II: Media Freedom

Cohort Participants

Those who have participated in the cohort and/or submitted commitments are:

Governments

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Canada
4. Chile
5. Czech Republic
6. Denmark
7. Dominican Republic
8. Ecuador
9. Estonia
10. European Union
11. Germany
12. Greece
13. Italy
14. Latvia
15. Liberia
16. Luxembourg
17. Malawi
18. Malta
19. Netherlands
20. Norway
21. Republic of Korea
22. Romania
23. Sierra Leone
24. Slovakia
25. Slovenia
26. Switzerland
27. United Kingdom
28. United States

Civil society organizations, philanthropies and businesses

1. Abrajji
2. ACOS ALLIANCE
3. Afghanistan Journalists Center (AFJC)
4. Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals
5. Agence France-Presse (AFP)
6. Agenda Propia
7. Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy

8. Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI Indonesia)
9. Amhara Media Corporation
10. Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ)
11. Article 19
12. Article 19 Mexico & Central America
13. Associação Data Labe
14. The Associated Press (AP)
15. Association of International Broadcasting (AIB)
16. Baltic Centre for Media
17. BBC Media Action
18. Bloggers of Zambia
19. Brands4News
20. Cambodian Center for Human Rights
21. Campaign for Free Expression (CFE)
22. Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA)
23. Centre for Investigative Journalism in Uganda
24. Centre for Media Studies and Peacebuilding
25. Center for Media Viability and Development
26. Child Rights Centre Child Rights Centre Albania (CRCA/ECPAT Albania)
27. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
28. DW Akademie
29. Eastern Africa Editors' Society
30. Equibity plc
31. Fondation Hirondelle
32. Foreign Policy Centre
33. Fundación Para La Libertad De Prensa (FLIP)
34. Free Press
35. Free Press Initiative Zambia
36. Free Press Unlimited (FPU)
37. Gender and Media Connect
38. GK
39. Global Citizen
40. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)
41. Globe International Centre
42. Global Media Registry
43. Global Poverty Project
44. Globe Telecom
45. Google
46. GroupM
47. The Guardian Foundation
48. Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)
49. Gulliver Projects
50. High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom
51. IFEX
52. Institute for War and Peace Reporting (Latin America and Caribbean Division)
53. Instituto de Tecnologia e Sociedade do Rio de Janeiro
54. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)
55. International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)
56. International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
57. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
58. International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM)
59. International Media Support (IMS)
60. International Press Institute (IPI)
61. International Republican Institute (IRI)
62. International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP)

63. International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)
64. Internews
65. IREX
66. Journalists for Human Rights
67. La Liga Contra el Silencio (Colombia)
68. Luminare
69. Maharat Foundation
70. Media Action Nepal
71. Media Alliance of Zimbabwe
72. Media Association for Peace (MAP)
73. Media Council of Kenya (MCK)
74. Media Development Investment Fund, Inc. (MDIF)
75. Media Diversity Institute
76. Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)
77. Mediahuis Ireland
78. Media Institute of the Caribbean
79. Media Law Resource Center
80. Media Monitoring Africa
81. Media Voice (Media and Communication Educational and Research Center)
82. Meydan TV
83. MFC Malawi
84. Microsoft
85. Middlesex University London
86. Mindanao Independent Press Council (MIPC) Inc.
87. Muwatin Media Network
88. National Union of Somali Journalists
89. New Narratives
90. The New York Times
91. New Zealand News Publishers' Association and Media Freedom Committee
92. Nigeria Grassroot News
93. Ojo Publico
94. Open Society Foundations
95. Pakistan Press Foundation
96. Panos Institute Southern Africa (PSAf)
97. PEN America
98. PEN International
99. Periodistas Sin Cadenas
100. Press Union of Liberia
101. Prudent Stewards Foundation (PSF)
102. Public Media Alliance
103. Publishers Association of Liberia
104. RNW Media
105. Rory Peck Trust
106. Reporters sans Frontières (RSF)
107. Rural Media Network Pakistan
108. Safety of Journalists Coalition (ISCO SoJ Coalition)
109. Secu Digital Mexico
110. SMEX
111. Somali Media Women Association (SOMWA)
112. The Swedish Media Publishers' Association (Tidningsutgivarna)
113. Thomson Media
114. Thomson Reuters Foundation
115. University of East Anglia
116. World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA)
117. WPP