Media Development

WACC

STATEMENTS ON COMMUNICATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

OPEN ACCESS

Join the World Association for Christian Communication!

WACC is an international organization that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people's dignity and community. Rooted in Christian faith, WACC works with all those denied the right to communicate because of status, identity, or gender. It advocates full access to information and communication, and promotes open and diverse media. WACC strengthens networks of communicators to advance peace, understanding and justice.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Membership of WACC provides opportunities to network with people of similar interests and values, to learn about and support WACC's work, and to exchange information about global and local questions of communication rights and the democratization of the media.

WACC Members are linked to a Regional Association for the geographic area in which they are based. They receive regular publications, an annual report, and other materials. Regional Associations also produce newsletters. In addition, members are invited to participate in regional and global activities such as seminars, workshops, and webinars.

Full details can be found on WACC's web site:
www.waccglobal.org

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual	35 USD
Institutional	120 USD
Student Rate	20 USD

Media Development Vol. LXVIII 4/2022

IN THE NEXT ISSUE
The 1/2023 issue of *Media Development* will explore communication and media in Latin America today.

WACC
communication for all

WACC is a member of the
actalliance

EDITORIAL

Unfulfilled expectations dating back over fifty years to the evocative call for a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) have spiralled into a digital age, in which political, economic, social and cultural life is being transformed by technologies that are challenging long-held notions of communication rights and democratic accountability.

Those unfulfilled expectations relate to the positive role mass communications and media can play in society – government and corporate interests allowing – on the basis of more equitable, democratic, and balanced communication flows and infrastructures.

The documents in this issue of *Media Development* show that despite a radical transformation of global communications since the 1970s – most recently with the astonishingly rapid deployment of digital platforms – the democratization of communication has remained a persistent yet unattained vision.

The MacBride Report (1980) advocated greater accessibility, equality, plurality, and diversity – social justice principles that apply to both analogue and digital communication and which, post-MacBride, continued to appear in key international documents, some of which are collected here. As the MacBride Report underlined:

"In many countries, both developed and developing, various kinds of imbalance are to be found: between urban and rural communities, between the elite and the masses, between majority and minority groups of all kinds. One of the main purposes in developing communications is to help constantly to reduce inequalities."[1]

Twenty years later, nothing much had changed. In 2003, the *Civil Society Declaration* at the first World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) noted that people not technologies should lie at the heart of genuine development:

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

The Civil Society Declaration remains one of the most comprehensive overviews of the complexities and challenges facing the communication rights movement.

Revising its own principles in *Communication for All* (2012), WACC observed that:

"When communication is inclusive and invites participation, it makes worldviews and collective experiences richer and more vivid. More images, thoughts and points-of-view are added to the public sphere."

In response to continuing gender disparities, the *New York Declaration* (2017) said:

"It is essential to promote forms of communication that not only challenge the patriarchal nature of media but strive to decentralize and democratize them: to create media that encourage dialogue and debate; media that advance women and creativity; media that reaffirm women's wisdom and knowledge, and that make people into subjects rather than objects or targets of communication."

Promoting the notion of information as a public good in democratic societies, the *Windhoek Declaration* (2021) advised:

"Press freedom, independence and pluralism remain major goals to guarantee information as a public good that serves as a shared resource for the whole of humanity. To these goals we now add those of media viability, transparency of digital platforms, and citizens empowered with media and information literacy."

And in the context of the digital age, the

Copenhagen Pledge (2021) emphasised the need for a communication ecosystem based on human rights:

"A human rights-based approach to digital technologies and responsible handling of data can help foster a democratic culture, broaden civic engagement in democratic processes, and enhance the open and free exchange of ideas so vital to democracies."

In the documents republished in this issue of *Media Development*, readers will be able to find most of the ethical, technical, and practical concepts, including key recommendations and actions, that might facilitate and guarantee communicative justice. As always, the obstacles are autocracy, political intransigence, corporate greed, disagreement about the shape of universal social progress, and a seeming unwillingness to act together for the greater good of humanity.

Overcoming such obstacles requires a concerted approach by all elements of society that is not always evident. As historian Yuval Noah Harari notes, "The merger of infotech and biotech threatens the core modern values of liberty and equality. Any solution to the technological challenge has to involve *global* cooperation" [emphasis added].[2]

Statements have a long shelf-life, but limited impact. Despite their impeccable rationales, it often proves difficult to translate words into actions in order to bring about necessary change. Here, civil society interventions are desperately needed: to create greater awareness of the issues involved, to lobby at local and national levels, and to bring moral weight to bear on how to tackle the inequalities and injustices that prevent people from designing and achieving a better future. ▪

Notes
1. *Many Voices, One World. Towards a new more just and more efficient world information and communication order.* Paris: UNESCO, 1980, p. 206.
2. Yuval Noah Harari. *21 Lessons for the 21st Century.* Penguin Random House, 2018, p. 83.

Shaping information societies for human needs

WSIS Civil Society Declaration

We, women and men from different continents, cultural backgrounds, perspectives, experience and expertise, acting as members of different constituencies of an emerging global civil society, considering civil society participation as fundamental to the first ever held UN Summit on Information and Communication issues, the World Summit on the Information Society, have been working for two years inside the process, devoting our efforts to shaping people-centred, inclusive and equitable concept of information and communication societies. Working together both on-line and off-line as civil society entities, practising an inclusive and participatory use of information and communication technologies, has allowed us to share views and shape common positions, and to collectively develop a vision of information and communication societies.

At this step of the process, the first phase of the Summit, Geneva, December 2003, our voices and the general interest we collectively expressed are not adequately reflected in the Summit documents. We propose this document as part of the official outcomes of the Summit.[1] Convinced that this vision can become reality through the actions and lives of women and men,

communities and people, we hereby present our own vision to all, as an invitation to participate in this ongoing dialogue and to join forces in shaping our common future.

1. A Visionary Society

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

We are committed to building information and communication societies[2] that are people-centred, inclusive and equitable. Societies in which everyone can freely create, access, utilise, share and disseminate information and knowledge, so that individuals, communities and peoples are empowered to improve their quality of life and to achieve their full potential. Societies founded on the principles of social, political, and economic justice, and peoples' full participation and empowerment, and thus societies that truly address the key development challenges facing the world today. Societies that pursue the objectives of sustainable development, democracy, and gender equality, for the attainment of a more peaceful, just, egalitarian and thus sustainable world, premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

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

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

We recognise that no technology is neutral with respect to its social impacts and, therefore, the possibility of having so-called "tech-

Women in a computer and secretarial skills class in the Vocational Training Center in Gaza City, Gaza. The center is sponsored by the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches. DSPR is a member of the ACT Alliance. Photo: ACT/ Paul Jeffrey.

nology-neutral" decision-making processes is a fallacy. It is critical to make careful social and technical choices concerning the introduction of new technologies from the inception of their design through to their deployment and operational phases. Negative social and technical impacts of information and communications systems that are discovered late in the design process are usually extremely difficult to correct and, therefore, can cause lasting harm. We envision an information and communication society in which technologies are designed in a participatory manner with and by their end-users so as to prevent or minimise their negative impacts.

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

We are conscious that information, knowledge and the means of communication are available on a magnitude that humankind has never

dreamt of in the past; but we are also aware that exclusion from access to the means of communication, from information and from the skills that are needed to participate in the public sphere, is still a major constraint, especially in developing countries. At the same time information and knowledge are increasingly being transformed into private resources which can be controlled, sold and bought, as if they were simple commodities and not the founding elements of social organisation and development. Thus, as one of the main challenges of information and communication societies, we recognise the urgency of seeking solutions to these contradictions.

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

2. Core Principles and Challenges

In accordance with this vision, it is essential that the development of information and communication societies be grounded in core principles that reflect a full awareness of the challenges to be met and the responsibility of different stake-

holders. This includes the full recognition of the need to address gender concerns and to make a fundamental commitment to gender equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment, and recognise these as non-negotiable and essential prerequisites to an equitable and people-centred development within information and communication societies. Such a commitment means consciously redressing the effects of the intersection of unequal power relations in the social, economic and political spheres, which manifests in differential access, choice, opportunity, participation, status and control over resources between women and men as well as communities in terms of class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, geographical location and development status.

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

2.1 Social Justice and People-Centred Sustainable Development

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.1 Poverty Eradication

Poverty Eradication must be a key priority on the WSIS agenda. Without challenging existing inequalities, no sustainable development embra-

cing the new ICTs can be achieved. People living in extreme poverty must be enabled to contribute their experiences and knowledge in a dialogue involving all parties. Challenging poverty requires more than setting "development agendas". It requires a fundamental commitment to examine the current frameworks, to improve local access to information that is of relevance for the specific context, to improve training in ICT-related skills, and to allocate significant financial and other resources. Also, because volunteers are working at the grassroots level, they play an important role in social inclusion.

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

2.1.2 Global Citizenship

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

2.1.3 Gender Justice

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

2.1.4 Importance of Youth

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

Workers for KROS, a community organization in Jacmel, a town on Haiti's southern coast that was ravaged by an earthquake, work outside on laptops developing a data base of quake survivors and their needs. Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey.

must also be addressed. As main users of ICTs, young people are most affected and vulnerable to the health risks exposed by their use. Therefore, we commit to develop and use only those ICTs that ensure the well-being, protection, and harmonious development of all children.

2.1.5 Access to Information and the Means of Communication

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

Universal access to information that is essential for human development must be ensured. Infrastructure and the most appropriate forms of information and communication technologies must be accessible for all in their different social context, and the social appropriation of these technologies must be encouraged. This im-

plies addressing diverse realities experienced by distinct social groups such as indigenous peoples, diasporas and migrants, and privileging local or targeted solutions. Traditional media and community-based information and communication initiatives have a vital role to play in these respects, and so does the effective use of the new ICTs. The regulatory and legal framework in all information and communication societies must be strengthened to support broad-based sharing of technologies, information, and knowledge, and to foster community control, respectful of human rights and freedoms.

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

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

ate claims in conformity with international law.

2.1.6 Access to Health Information

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

2.1.7 Basic Literacy

Literacy and free universal access to education is a key principle. Knowledge societies require an informed and educated citizenry. Capacity-building needs to include skills to use ICTs, media and information literacy, and the skills needed for active citizenship including the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. Approaches that are local, horizontal, gender- responsive and socially driven and mediated should be prioritised. A combination of traditional and new media as well as open access to knowledge and information should be encouraged. Libraries – both real and virtual – have an important role to play to ensure access to knowledge and information available to everyone. At the international and multilateral level, the public domain of knowledge and culture needs to be protected. People-centred information technologies can foster eradication of

illnesses and epidemics, can help give everyone food, shelter, freedom and peace.

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

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

2.1.8 Development of Sustainable and Community-based ICT Solutions

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

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

It is essential to develop concrete proposals and policies to improve resource efficiency and develop renewable energy resources. This involves 'dematerialising' (for example, using less paper) and reducing ICT-related waste; increasing the

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

Communities must have the ability to participate directly in the development and maintenance of ICT-based solutions to their own problems. In order that communities may create and sustain their own solutions using ICTs, they must be empowered to develop their own productive forces and control the means of production within information societies. This must include the right to participate fully in the development and sustenance of ICT-based projects through democratic processes, including decision making with respect to economic, cultural, environmental, and other issues. ICTs should be used as an instrument for the creation of genuine and sustainable sources of work, thus providing new labour opportunities.

In order that communities and individuals may create economically and technically sustainable solutions, they must have the right to use Free Software. This makes software more affordable, and allows people to participate in its development and maintenance.[3] ICT-based innovation should adhere to the use of international technical standards for hardware, software, and processes, which are open, freely implementable, publicly documented, interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven.

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

2.1.9 Conflict Situations

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

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

Information intervention in conflict situations should be bound by international law, and the WSIS should encourage work on a future convention against information warfare to address these concerns.

At the same time, the WSIS should not only limit information warfare and the control of media in conflict situations, but also actively promote media and communications for peace. To that end, we encourage governments to decrease public subsidy for military communications technology, and instead spend money directly on developing peaceful communications tools and applications.

2.2 Centrality of Human Rights

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

2.2.1 Freedom of Expression

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is of fundamental and specific importance, since it forms an essential condition for human rights-based information and communication societies. Article 19 requires that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, through any media and regardless of frontiers. This implies free circulation of ideas, pluralism of the sources of information and the media, press freedom, and availability of the tools to access information and share knowledge.

Freedom of expression on the Internet must be protected by the rule of law rather than through self- regulation and codes of conduct. There must be no prior censorship, arbitrary control of, or constraints on, participants in the communication process or on the content, transmission and dissemination of information. Pluralism of the sources of information and the media must be safeguarded and promoted.

2.2.2 Right to Privacy

The right to privacy, enshrined in Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is essential for self-determined human development in regard to civic, political, social, economic and cultural activities. The right to privacy faces new challenges in information and communication societies, and must be protected in public spaces, online, offline, at home and in the workplace.

Every person must have the right to decide freely whether and in what manner he or she wants to receive information and communicate with others. The possibility of communicating anonymously must be ensured for everyone. The power of the private sector and of governments over personal data increases the risk of abuse, including monitoring and surveillance. Such activities must be kept to a legally legitimised minimum in a democratic society and must remain accountable. The collection, retention, processing, use and disclosure of personal data, no matter by whom, should remain under the control of and determined by the individual concerned.

2.2.3 Right to Participate in Public Affairs

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

2.2.4 Workers' Rights

ICTs are progressively changing our way of working. The creation of fair, secure, safe and healthy working conditions, in the manufacture of equipment and software, and in the utilisation of ICTs in the workplace in general, which respect international labour standards, for instance

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

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

2.2.6 Women's Rights
In order to realise women's rights in the information and communication societies, as spelled out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Fifth World Conference on Women), it is crucial to acknowledge and address the differences, disparities and disadvantages that women experience. This means taking into account the ways in which women are different from men, and how these differences translate into differential levels of access, opportunity, participation and use of ICTs. It must be ensured that policy or legal interventions and programmes consciously address these differences. To ensure effective equality of women, and thereby enabling women's full ability to claim and exercise their human rights, it is necessary to adopt a substantive equality approach in the analysis, which informs the content of ICT

policy and programmes. This approach implies that actions to promote women's rights must transform the unequal power relation between women and men. Women need not only equality of opportunity, but also equality of access to opportunities and the ability to fully participate in availing such opportunities.

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

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

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

be prescribed by law, be strictly proportionate to such an aim, and be necessary in a democratic society.

2.3 Culture, Knowledge and the Public Domain

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

2.3.1 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

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

2.3.1.1 Capacity Building and Education

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

2.3.1.2 Language

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

2.3.1.3 International Law and Regulation

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

and media diversity and contribute to the development of human knowledge.

2.3.2 Media

2.3.2.1 The Role of the Media

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

Article 19 is the foundation for five regional declarations on media freedom and plurality that must continue to frame the role of the media in all its means of delivery. These texts[4] have been unanimously endorsed by the member states of UNESCO.

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

Editorial independence of media professionals and creators must be protected and the formulation of professional and ethical standards in journalism and other media production must be the responsibility of media workers themselves. Online authors, journalists and editors should have the same contractual rights and social protections as other media workers.

Public service broadcasting has a specific and crucial role to play in ensuring the participation of all in the information and communication societies. State-controlled media should be transformed into editorially independent public service organisations.

2.3.2.2 Community Media

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

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

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

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

2.3.3 The Public Domain of Global Knowledge

A rich public domain of knowledge available to all is essential to sustainable information societies, to bridge the digital divide and to provide the grounds for a positive development of intellectual creativity, technological innovation and

effective use of that technology. In information societies, new digital forms of storing information mean that this can be copied and transmitted in innovative ways that challenge existing customs and laws. The increasing privatisation of knowledge production threatens to restrict the availability of research results. Attempts have been made to commercially exploit traditional indigenous knowledge without consulting the communities, who are the owners of that knowledge.

2.3.3.1 Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge

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

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

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

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

2.3.3.2 Copyright, Patents and Trademarks

Limited intellectual monopolies, also known as intellectual property rights, are granted only for the benefit of society, most notably to encourage creativity and innovation. The benchmark against which they must be reviewed and adjusted regularly is how well they fulfil this purpose. Today, the vast majority of humankind has no access to the public domain of global knowledge, a situation that is contributing to the growth of inequality and exploitation of the poorest peoples and communities. Yet instead of extending and strengthening the global domain, recent developments are restricting information more and more to private hands. Patents are being extended to software (and even to ideas), with the consequent effect of limiting innovation and reinforcing monopolies. Drugs that could save millions of lives are denied to disease sufferers because pharmaceutical companies that hold the patents resist making them available to those countries that cannot pay high prices.

Copyright periods have been extended again and again, making them practically indefinite and defeating their original purpose.

2.3.3.3 Software

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

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

of. Governments should promote the use of Free Software in schools and higher education and in public administration.

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

2.3.3.4 Research

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

Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities, should be able to contribute to enrich the common good of culture and knowledge, by putting into the public domain the results of their publicly funded activities. The public domain of global knowledge should be defended and extended through public policy, awareness-building and investments in programmes. These should ensure that any work funded by public or philanthropic bodies enters the public domain and should increase accessibility of information in online and offline media by means of Free Documentation, public libraries and other initiatives to disseminate information. All scientific data, such as genomes of living beings, should be freely accessible to all in Open Access databases.

2.4 Enabling Environment
2.4.1 Ethical Dimensions

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

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

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

Formulation of ethics and standards in journalism and other media production should be the responsibility of media workers themselves.

Respect for diversity must be a central criterion in establishing the principles and mechanisms for resolving conflicts that arise in information societies. Such societies, if they are built on values such as cooperation, equity, honesty, integrity, respect and solidarity, can have a significant impact on the quality of interaction between cultures and the promotion of meaningful dialogue among civilisations, and thus contribute to bringing about world peace.

2.4.2 Democratic and Accountable Governance

National and international regulations for information and communication societies should be in full compliance with international human rights standards. Openness, transparency, accountability and the rule of law should be the guiding principles for the democratic governance of societies at all levels, from the local to the national and international. Inclusive, participatory

and peaceful information and communication societies rest on the responsiveness of governing bodies as well as on the commitment of all actors involved in governance, both of governmental and non-governmental nature, to progressively implement greater political, social and economic equity.

A democratic perspective on information and communication societies, in which information is crucial for citizens, is necessary in order to make choices grounded on the awareness of alternatives and opportunities. Information and communication are the foundation for transparency, debate and decision-making. They can contribute to a culture and a practice of cooperation, basis for a renewal of democracy. Information and communication technologies offer potential benefits to the world's communities that will only be exploited if there is a political will to do so.

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

2.4.3 Infrastructure and Access

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

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

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

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

Community telecentres (public access centres) have become spaces for the effective access and strategic use of information and communication technologies with emphasis on the democratisation of communications. Governments should guarantee policies for the development of telecentres, among others, to provide equitable and affordable access to infrastructure and ICTs; to encourage digital inclusion policies for the population, independently of gender, ethnic aspects, language, culture and geographical situation. This would promote the discussion and active participation of communities in public policy processes related to the implementation and role of telecentres for local development.

Orbital satellite paths should be recognised as a public resource and should be allocated to benefit the public interest through transparent and accountable frameworks. Moreover, spectrum planning and regulation should ensure equitable access among a plurality of media including sufficient satellite capacity reserved for

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

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

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

2.4.4 Financing and Infrastructure

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

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

A Community Media Fund should be established through a donor civil society partnership to invest in and support community-driven and community-based media, and information and communication initiatives using both traditional media and new ITC's. Effort should be made to eliminate the duplication of infrastructures and to consolidate projects in a national or regional frame to encourage investment funding. Where

possible, ICT and radio/TV networks should use common infrastructure for dissemination.

2.4.5 Human Development — Education and Training

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

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

Only informed and educated citizens with access to empowering education, a plurality of means of information, and the outputs of research efforts can fully participate in and effectively contribute to knowledge societies. Therefore, it is also essential to recognise the right to education as stated both in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Capacity building initiatives designed to empower individuals and communities in the information society must include, in addition to basic literacy and ICT skills, media and information literacy, the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. In particular, educators, students and researchers must be able to use and develop Free Software, which allows the unfettered ability to study, change, copy, distribute, and run software. Finally, capacity building initiatives should be designed to stimulate the desire for general learning and respond to specific as well as special needs: those of young and elderly people, of women, of people with impairments, of indigenous peoples, of migrant communities, of refugees and returnees in

post-conflict situations, in a life-long perspective. Volunteers can help transmit knowledge and enhance capacity, in particular of marginalized groups not reached by government training institutions.

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

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

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

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

2.4.6 Information Generation and Knowledge Development

Research must be promoted in all fields related to the information and communication societies, and its development must be sensitive to the social uses of ICTs. In particular, research on community informatics must be supported.[5] This would include the development of a research agenda among practitioners, scholars, and communities; the cataloguing of community informatics projects and identification of both factors for failure and success; and support for research projects and systems trials. Fundamental research should be strengthened by expanding open access to primary scientific data and publications. Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities should foster independent investigation, build a pluralistic body of knowledge and promote the results of activities which have been funded by public money. This body of knowledge should be made available in all public spaces, or spaces with public access (community centres, universities, schools, museums, libraries, media centres, and other dedicated entities), through appropriate and plural modes of access, avoiding the risk of high dependency on digital technology alone.

2.4.7 Global Governance of ICT and Communications

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

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

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

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

In light of the relevant controversies in the WSIS process, special attention must be given to improving the global coordination of the Internet's underlying resources. It must be remembered that the Internet is not a singular communications "platform" akin to a public telephone network; it is instead a highly distributed set of protocols, processes, and voluntarily self-associating networks.

Accordingly, the Internet cannot be governed effectively by any one organisation or set of interests. An exclusionary intergovernmental model would be especially ill suited to its unique characteristics; only a truly open, multistakeholder, and flexible approach can ensure the Internet's continued growth and transition into a multilingual medium. In parallel, when the conditions for system stability and sound management can be guaranteed, authority over inherently global resources like the root servers should be transferred to a global, multistakeholder entity.

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

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

3. Conclusion

It is people who primarily form and shape societies, and information and communication soci-

eties are no exception. Civil society actors have been key innovators and shapers of the technology, culture and content of information and communication societies, and will continue to be in the future.

Human rights stand at the centre of our vision of the information and communication society.[6] From this standpoint, action plans, implementation, financing mechanisms and governance must all be shaped by and evaluated on the basis of their ability to meet life-critical human needs.

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

Toward this end, and in preparation for the second phase of WSIS, an independent commission should be established to review national and international ICT regulations and practices and their compliance with international human rights standards. This commission should also address the potential applications of ICTs to the realization of human rights, such as the right to development, the right to education and the right to a standard of living adequate for the mental and physical health and well-being of the individual and his or her family, including food, housing and medical care.

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

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

Notes
1. WSIS Civil Society Plenary Geneva, 8 December 2003.
2. There is no single information, communication or knowledge society: there are, at the local, national and global levels, possible future societies; moreover, considering communication is a critical aspect of any information society, we use in this document the phrase "information and communication societies." For consistency with previous WSIS language, we retain the use of the phrase "Information Society" when directly referencing WSIS.
3. In this document, we use the term "Free Software" to refer to the specific concept defined by the Free Software Foundation. Free Software is software that is licensed in such a way that people have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve it. Free Software implies access to source code as does "open source software"; however, open source software as the term is popularly used is not necessarily Free Software in our definition. Some organisations release open source software without permitting all of these actions.
4. The Windhoek Declaration on the Promotion of Free and Pluralistic African Press, 1991; the Declaration of Alma Ata on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media, 1992; the Declaration of Sana'a on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media, 1994; the Sofia Declaration on Promoting European Pluralistic and Independent Media, 1997 (adopted in 95 and 97).
5. Community informatics refers here to the interdisciplinary study and practice of the design, implementation, and management of information and communication technologies developed by communities to solve their own problems. This field takes into account social science research about the social impacts of ICTs – also known as social informatics – as well as information and communication systems analysis and design techniques.
6. Nothing in this declaration may be interpreted as implying that civil society wishes to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Rights and other human rights treaties.

Communication for All: Sharing WACC's Principles

World Association for Christian Communication

WACC believes that communication plays a crucial role in building peace, security and a sense of identity as well as in promoting justice, mutual accountability and transparency. Communication, WACC believes, contributes to the common good. This conviction has led WACC to articulate seven guiding principles:

– Communication is a spiritual exercise

– Communication builds and shapes community

– Communication enhances participation

– Communication promotes freedom and demands accountability

– Communication celebrates cultural diversity

– Communication builds connectedness

– Communication affirms justice and challenges injustice.

In 1984, Hans W. Florin, then General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), guided the development of a statement of WACC's core identity intended to shape its life and work. Two years later, WACC's directors adopted the *Christian Principles of Communication* (1986), affirming that communication creates community, is participa-

tory, liberates people, defends and promotes human cultures in all their rich diversity and speaks prophetically to power. Fr. Michael Traber was the key drafter of those principles.

It was WACC's hope that the *Christian Principles of Communication* would challenge its members "to disassociate themselves from power structures which keep the poor in a position of subservience" and to promote "genuine reconciliation by means of which the dignity of all people can be reaffirmed." The aim also was to encourage members to contribute, as people of faith, to the emerging debates on communication rights and communication ethics, as well as to advocate for truth and justice in a world where information and communication systems often sustained an unjust status quo.

A quarter of a century later, the world is both different and unchanged. Political, economic, social, and cultural structures have been transformed by globalization and technological innovation. Yet urgent questions of justice and equality remain to be addressed all over the world, not least in those countries suffering repression, conflict, and poverty.

To that end, WACC has revised and updated its principles to reflect contemporary realities. WACC affirms that communication is a spiritual exercise, builds and shapes community, enhances participation, promotes freedom and demands accountability, celebrates cultural diversity, builds connectedness, affirms justice and challenges injustice. In a spirit of openness to dialogue, WACC offers this document to all people of good will.

Communication is a spiritual exercise
WACC understands that communication is a function of transcendence. There is a sacredness to the creation of meaning in common, in which communication reflects the spiritual values at the heart of human identity. Creating meaning in common is a journey that Christians share with people of other faiths and none.

WACC finds in the person of Jesus a model

for communication. In Jesus, God became one with humankind and experienced the marvellous intensity of human relationships. In Jesus, God became part of human history and affirmed the essential value of community and culture. Jesus lived out compassion for the poor, the sick and the excluded, and he challenged the powerful to serve those in need. In Jesus, God experienced the brokenness and pain produced by injustice. In Jesus, God lifted up the hope of healing and fulfilment, of abundant life for all.

The Christian tradition has no monopoly on such values; they are common to all faiths. By means of this document, WACC seeks to encourage inter-faith study and dialogue.

Communication builds and shapes community

Communication is the invisible bond that holds communities together. The Latin verb communicare means to share, make common, turn into communal property. Communities shaped by communicatio share their spiritual and material resources, share ethical objectives with regard to their common life and the relationships they seek to build. This was the experience of the early Christian Church where "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (Acts 2: 44-45).

The life of a community is enriched by open, honest and transparent dialogue about decisions and events affecting the lives of its members. This applies equally to a neighbourhood or village, a city, a religious community or a community of nations. Relationships within a community are created and strengthened by face-to-face conversation, community media run by and for its members, and social media that enable genuine participation in political, social and cultural questions relating to the common good.

Rather than uniting people and helping them to discern common interests, the mass media often isolate or divide. Where there are no obstacles or constraints, alternative and social media can help revitalise communities and rekindle relationships since they represent ways

of communicating that are open and inclusive, rather than one-way and exclusive.

Communities depend on communication to dismantle barriers that prevent them from claiming rights and justice for all – particularly barriers of race, gender, class, nation, power and wealth.

Genuine communication calls for mutual accountability practised in community, building trust that, in turn, strengthens community life and can lead to communion. True communion is facilitated when people join together to affirm that diversity, acceptance of and commitment to one another enrich and make them stronger.

Communication enhances participation

Participatory communication is open to dialogue, the fluid exchange of ideas and the transformation that emerges as a result. Inclusive communication does not seek simply to persuade people to accept pre-conceived ideas. Instead, true conversation changes all participants; ideas become a communal work-in-progress, enlightened and enlightening. Participation also leads to transparency and mutual accountability as people come to understand their participation in the context of the well-being of their communities.

When communication is inclusive and invites participation, it makes worldviews and collective experiences richer and more vivid. More images, thoughts and points-of-view are added to the public sphere.

Social media platforms, for example, have dramatically broadened media participation, although they are not free of the logic of the marketplace and are subject to the influence of powerful ideological interests. For this reason, it is vital that participants in social media work maintain autonomy, diversity, and transparency. Every story deserves an opportunity to be recounted, questioned, rebutted and challenged.

Stereotypes are challenged as people use emerging technologies to exercise their right to communicate in the public space, uploading words and images instantly as events unfold. The danger of stereotypes is not only that they are
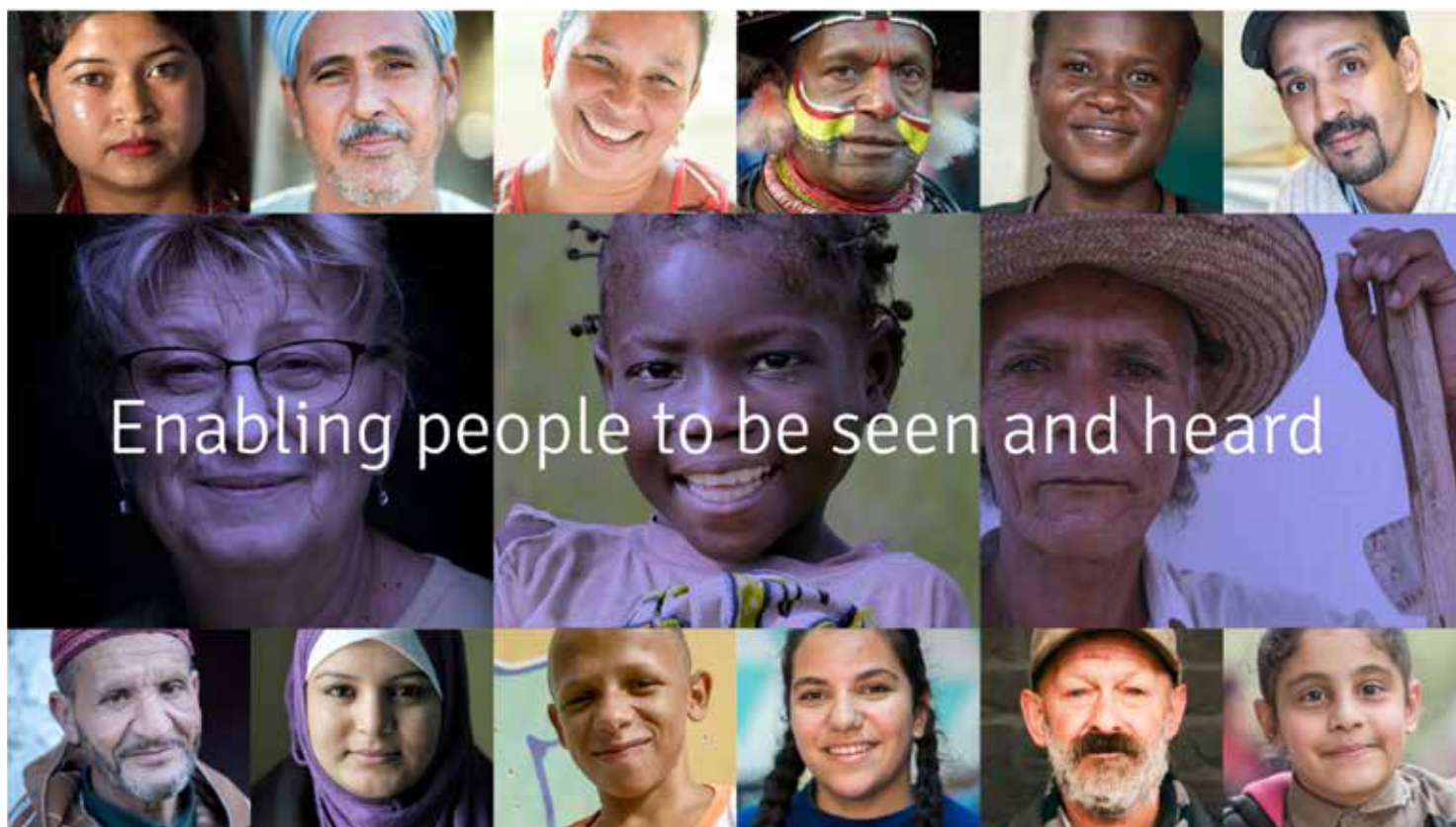
The current banner on WACC's web landing page. Photos by Life on Earth: Sean Hawkey, Paul Jeffrey, Albin Hillert.

Enabling people to be seen and heard

untrue, but that they presuppose that one story is the only story, that one image becomes a token for all.

Only if communication is participatory can it empower individuals and communities, challenge authoritarian political, economic and cultural structures and help to build a more just and peaceful world.

Communication promotes freedom and demands accountability

In many communities, the incorporation of emerging communication technologies into daily life multiplies voices while creating spaces where the silenced and invisibilized may address grievances. Communities use these technologies, together with more traditional media, as powerful tools with which they can demand accountability and celebrate their particular identities. In both rural and urban communities, information and communication technologies are being used for keeping in touch with friends and family, creative self-expression, commerce, accessing global culture, networking and advocacy.

On the other hand, media and technology conglomerates, often in partnership with governments, practice surveillance and exercise unprecedented levels of control over citizens. Furthermore, interconnected monopolies con-

trol news, opinion and entertainment, often in the pursuit of narrow ideological agendas.

The existence of information and communication technologies, on its own, does nothing to guarantee that the media serve truth and the common good, nor that everyone will be assured access to media platforms. Left to their own devices, media monopolies, allied with politicians, often engage in deception and manipulation to consolidate and preserve their own power. Such actions are an affront to human dignity and undermine personal freedom.

The Christian tradition affirms that God invests all of humankind with freedom and dignity, and that God stands especially with the oppressed and marginalized, working through history for their liberation. God desires that all people be enabled to learn from and interpret their own reality.

In today's world, communication must be lifted up as a fundamental human right and communicators called to practice an ethics of freedom and accountability. Freedom of expression must be respected and community groups assured access to technology and to media platforms. Educational curricula must include media literacy programs. This is especially important in times of rapid social and technological change when traditional cultures need to develop con-

structive strategies for engaging external cultural influences. Together, such principles assure that a diversity of voices and images remain before the public and that the public can develop healthy criteria for discerning how those voices and images may contribute to the common good.

Communication celebrates cultural diversity

Culture is the totality of what a group of people thinks, how it behaves and what it produces that is communicated to future generations. Culture is what unites people as human beings, but it also divides them into different communities.

In today's world, it is increasingly important to understand the similarities and differences between cultures. By appreciating similarities, people better understand their common humanity. By appreciating differences, people are able to affirm their self- worth in a global community that often trivializes notions of cultural identity.

Communication creates the symbolic environment in which identity, diversity and people's essential humanity co-exist. Genuine communication values people's dignity as human beings and their communities' cultures, especially in matters of language and faith.

In this respect, and despite the homogeneity spawned by globalization, many people are rediscovering and reclaiming their cultural identity. This is vital when cultural memory, language, religion, gender, age, ethnicity or race are denigrated or denied by members of other cultural groups.

Since meaning is created and shared through communication, it can sow understanding or misunderstanding, harmony or discord. Those who wish to deny justice turn to communication to disempower. In contrast, those who wish to challenge injustice turn to communication to empower. Celebrating and defending cultures becomes a way of strengthening a community's sense of its inherent worth and identity.

Communicators have a responsibility to create images and meaning respectful of the values and traditions that lie at the heart of other people's lives. It falls to communicators to avoid stereotypes, to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-religious understandings and to promote societies whose cultures live in peace together, affirming what each holds in common as well as what separates them. "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14).

Communication builds connectedness

Human beings are created to be in relationship with God, with each other and with the whole of creation. The whole created order bears God's image. For this reason, the well-being of all creation is a function of the well-being of each of its parts.

Today's globalized world is mired in multiple conflicts, ranging from ethnic and religious tensions, to disparities between rich and poor, to the challenges of climate justice. Contemporary media narratives, rooted in the conviction that polemic attracts bigger audiences, tend to exacerbate rather than assuage these tensions.

In today's world, developing communication skills that flow from an understanding of what all humans have in common – their inter-connectedness – is urgent. Building connectedness through communication affirms the uniqueness of each person and each community: their faces, stories and experiences. In this way "the other" is not merely a set of data, but a being who is valued and who needs to be understood. This implies giving "others" the space to be themselves where they can feel free to say what they think.

Connectedness emphasizes human dignity, potential and creativity, as well as human finitude and vulnerability. It persuades us to seek new and vital forms of dialogue and action that transcend the boundaries of religion and ideology and that empower persons and communities.

Communication that builds connectedness means establishing relationships of loving care with each other and the wider creation, acknowledging and taking responsibility for humanity's place within creation's interdependent whole.

Communication affirms justice and challenges injustice

In today's media world, a few powerful corporations and individuals decide whose voices are heard and what images are seen by the public, allowing them to shape policy, form public opinion and move peoples toward war or peace. In this context, some media workers, in both the news and entertainment media, have dared to speak truth to power, lifting up the concerns of the excluded and interpreting with insight how power flows in today's world.

Communicators who discern the ebb and flow of political, economic and cultural power in a particular time and place can use their insights to denounce the abuses of the powerful and to defend the dignity of widows and orphans, outcasts and strangers. Communicators can also announce the good news of how God is working in our midst to bend human history toward justice and peace. Such discernment takes on lasting meaning only when words are accompanied by action. To challenge injustice is to challenge the "principalities and powers" and may carry a high price.

Communication that affirms justice and challenges injustice serves truth and illuminates falsehood, since deception and half-truths threaten the common good. It also stimulates critical awareness of the realities constructed by the media, helping people to identify special interests and to differentiate that which is ephemeral and trivial from that which is lasting and of value.

Denouncing the abuses of the powerful is necessary not because communicators are without fault, but because they hope to create community in a world where others seek to divide. They promote participation and freedom where others seek to enslave and to silence, and they support and defend human dignity where others seek to destroy it. Communicators address power because those who seek it always, in every time and place, risk being seduced by power itself. When that happens, power becomes an agent of death. If communicators are to serve the God of Life, they must affirm justice and struggle against injustice.

Communication rights, communication for all

In light of the above principles, and believing that communication embodies respect for the dignity, integrity, equality and freedom of all human beings and their communities, WACC recognizes communication rights as inherent in all other human rights.

Communication rights claim spaces and resources in the public sphere for everyone to be able to engage in transparent, informed and democratic debate. They claim unfettered access to the information and knowledge essential to democracy, empowerment, responsible citizenship and mutual accountability. They claim political, social and cultural environments that encourage the free exchange of a diversity of creative ideas, knowledge and cultural products. Finally, communication rights insist on the need to ensure a diversity of cultural identities that together enhance and enrich the common good.

Communication for All: Sharing WACC's Principles affirms the centrality of communication – including mass, community and social media – in strengthening human dignity and in promoting democratic values and social justice. In particular, the principle of "communication for all" restores voice and visibility to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in a spirit of genuine solidarity. ■

Reclaiming communication for life, justice and peace

Busan Communication Statement

Statement from the International Consultation on the Theme of the World Council of Churches' 10th Assembly: A Communication Perspective held in Busan, Korea, 22–25 May 2012 and organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC), World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), and the Korean Host Committee (KHC).

The world is a very different place from when the World Council of Churches addressed the issue of communication at the Uppsala (1968) and Vancouver (1983) Assemblies. Today, people everywhere, even children, share their stories through media platforms – ranging from Internet- based social networks to the initiatives of citizen journalists – that are more powerful than those available to churches, governments and media conglomerates 30 years ago.

Political, economic, social, and cultural structures have been transformed by globalization and technological innovation. Yet, important elements of our context remain unchanged. Urgent questions of justice and equality need to be addressed all over the world, not least in countries suffering repression, conflict and poverty.

As the World Council of Churches prepares to gather on the Korean peninsula, we are mindful of the role played by communication in deepening divisions that have lasted for generations, but also in sowing the seeds of reconciliation.

In today's world, despite the potential of social media, a few powerful corporations and individuals continue to decide whose voices are heard and what images are seen by the public, allowing them to shape policy, form public opinion, and move people toward war or peace.

The integrity of the journalistic enterprise has been compromised by media conglomerates and challenged by new forms of media. Some media workers, journalists included, have dared to lift up the concerns of the excluded and to interpret with insight how power flows today.

Communicators who discern the ebb and flow of political, economic and cultural power in a particular time and place can use their insights to denounce the abuses of the powerful and to defend the dignity of widows and orphans, outcasts and strangers. Communicators can also announce the good news of how God is working in our midst to bend human history toward justice and peace.

Communication for Life, Justice and Peace
During World War II, many women – including many Koreans – were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers. Euphemistically, these victims of war were known as "comfort women". Beginning on 8 January 1992, a group of survivors gathered each week in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul asking for a formal apology from the Japanese government. When they held their one thousandth gathering on 14 December 2011, they unveiled a statue of a bare-foot girl seated on a school chair. Beside her is an empty chair that invites people to sit next to her in solidarity. As Christian communicators we are called to sit next to this little girl and be witnesses in service to life, justice and peace.

God of Life
What if God had not spoken?

According to the Genesis account, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth…" According to John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word. […] All things came into being through him, and without him not one

thing came into being."

Without communication there would be no life. Creation was, and is, an act of communication. Communication was, and is, an act of creation.

All living beings consist of many cells that can only survive if there is communication between them. In the traditional Eastern worldview, as well as that of many indigenous peoples, the universe is understood to be an integrated whole, an interdependent organism. This view helps us to see that communication is the essence of life and that human beings are in communication with all creation.

Communication also plays a vital role in confronting threats to life. It affirms life by promoting truth-telling, fairness, participation, dialogue, openness, and inclusion. Communication that threatens life is characterized by censorship, misinformation, hate-speech, lies, and exclusion.

Communication can strengthen people's ability to identify and respond to threats to life and can advocate for those made invisible and excluded. In a world that has enabled people of different backgrounds, religions and cultures to be more aware of each other and their interconnectedness, communication has the potential to promote life together in faith, hope and love.

Lead us to Justice

Communicators are called to take a stand for justice. The struggle for the dignity of all women, all men, requires that communicators become effective advocates for human rights – including the right to communicate – as well as defenders of the integrity of all creation.

Communication in the way of Jesus must promote wholeness and the common good. According to Philippians 2:7, "Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a servant." That means He served all people, especially taking up the cause of the poor, the suffering, the outcasts, the weak and the oppressed. Communicators for justice will empty themselves and act as servants of the Gospel – even if this means challenging structures of power.

Prophetic communication opens up alternative horizons that are not limited to the perspectives imposed by the dominant culture. Prophetic communication empowers individuals and communities to tell their own stories and to craft their own images and gestures. Communicators must ensure that those who have been silenced have access to the media they need in order to share their views with the larger world.

Lead us to Peace

Communication can sow understanding or misunderstanding, harmony or discord. Those who challenge injustice use communication to empower. Those who deny justice use communication to disempower. Communicators for peace seek to create images and tell stories that respect the values and traditions that lie at the heart of other people's lives. Such images and stories can strengthen inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding, challenge stereotypes, and promote societies that are able to live together in peace, affirming what they hold in common as well as what separates them.

Communication for peace creates opportunities for people to consider and value non-violent responses to potential and actual conflict. Communication for peace reveals backgrounds and contexts, listens to all sides, exposes hidden agendas and highlights peace initiatives no matter their origin.

The complexity, scale and diversity of the conflicts that exist in today's world means that no single news source can hope to address adequately the challenge of communicating about conflict or ways of creating sustainable peace. Opening eyes and ears to diverse sources of information and knowledge fosters the depth and breadth of understanding that allows people to make informed decisions.

Reclaiming Communication

Communication rights claim spaces and resources in the public sphere for everyone to be able to engage in transparent, informed and democratic

debate. They claim unfettered access to the information and knowledge essential to democracy, empowerment, responsible citizenship and mutual accountability. They claim political, social and cultural environments that encourage the free exchange of a diversity of creative ideas, knowledge and cultural products. Finally, communication rights insist on the need to ensure a diversity of cultural identities that together enhance and enrich the common good.

Communication for life, justice and peace affirms the centrality of communication rights to mass, community and social media and to restoring voice and visibility to vulnerable, disadvantaged and excluded people in a spirit of genuine solidarity, hope and love.

God of life, in your grace, lead us to communicate justice and peace.

Call for Action

In order to be effective communicators in today's world and to give due recognition and support to church communication workers, secular media professionals and citizen journalists, we call on the churches and their partners:

* To become communicators for life, justice and peace throughout the world and especially in the context of the peaceful reunification of Korea.
* To advocate communication rights for all.
* To train people both within the church and secular society to communicate responsibly and with integrity and to understand how media are created and consumed in a globalized world.
* To reflect on their own ways of communicating internally and externally.
* To advance media literacy, communication for participatory development, media and gender justice, and to develop contextualized toolkits on how to communicate effectively.
* To integrate the study of communication for life, justice and peace into theological training. ∎

The New York Declaration

World Association for Christian Communication

Adopted on 11 March 2017 by participants at the "Gender & media: challenges and opportunities in the Post-2015 era" consultation organized by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). This Declaration updates the Bangkok Declaration adopted in 1994 at the Women Empowering Communication Conference organised by WACC, the International Women's Tribune Centre, New York, and ISIS–Manila.

Progress towards closing the gender gap in news media content has almost come to a standstill, according to the 2015 Global Media Monitoring Project research. While women are 50% of the world population, they remain only one in four of the people seen, heard or read about in the news since 2010. Their underrepresentation as news reporters has not changed in 10 years: only 37% of stories are reported by women. The proportion of stories that clearly challenge gender stereotypes has hovered between 3% and 4% since 2005. Women's relative invisibility in traditional news media has crossed over into digital news delivery platforms.

Traditional and new electronic media are domains of male, patriarchal power and domination, replete with degrading, humiliating and pornographic contents regarding women.

Online media contents reproduce the exclusion and ghettoization of women, both within the media product and in the comments and responses of new interactive audiences that become co-authors of the process of promoting

and legitimizing misogyny as public discourse; informational- communicational technologies themselves do not alter inequalities, but are positioned within social relations mapped by unequal and unjust economic, cultural and political power relationships of neoliberal, patriarchal and heteronormative domination.

Our position

We stand for equality, freedom for women, justice, equal access to media resources and against all kind of inequalities, capitalism and neoliberalism. We understand feminism as a struggle not only for women's rights, but as solidarity with all groups that are subjected to different kinds of oppression.

We acknowledge the work of women journalists who despite precarious working conditions and the risk of violence they face, still safeguard the human right to communication.

We are concerned about the tabloidization and relativization of social and political issues in the media contents that render them trivial, vulgar and unable to fulfil the primary media function of informing the public of the relevant issues. Censorship and self-censorship have grown, controlled by political and economic elites and directed against the freedom of press and information, as well as against the right of every individual to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to seek, receive and spread information.

We are concerned about the rise in religious fundamentalism, terrorism and fascism with their accompanying violence and suppression of women's voices.

We are concerned about media contribution to increasing and intensifying violence against women and girls.

We are concerned about the exploitation of girls and women in the sex industries. We are especially concerned about the use of media in general and the electronic media particularly as tools in these industries.

For these reasons, it is essential to promote forms of communication that not only challenge the patriarchal nature of media but strive to decentralize and democratize them: to create media that encourage dialogue and debate; media that advance women and creativity; media that reaffirm women's wisdom and knowledge, and that make people into subjects rather than objects or targets of communication. Media which are responsive to people's needs.

To address these gaps, we recommend the following:

*   Strengthening media owned by women.
*   Increasing opportunities for digital and technical training for women in the area of communications.
*   Eliminating gender stereotypes and hate speech from public media, and continual promoting of gender equality in the media.
*   Incorporation of gender-sensitivity, local history and cultural diversity in the education and training of professionals in the field of communications in order to increase gender sensitivity of reporting and to eliminate sexist and misogynist media content.
*   Expansion of gender-specific media research and documentation.
*   Ensuring freedom of expression for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups.
*   Promoting lobbies and campaigns directed at opinion makers and media consumers to raise public awareness on how issues of development affect women.
*   Visibility of women from minority and marginalized groups, rural women, women with disabilities, migrants, refugees, displaced women, their equal access to media to be part of media content production, news making and speaking about their experiences.
*   Promoting affirmative action and positive discrimination for the access of women and sexual minorities to mass media and to alternative media of their own.
*   Decreasing sensationalist media reporting that justifies and normalizes violence against

women, and introducing gender sensitive reporting on violence against women.

* Including the gender perspective as part of curricula in universities, communication training spaces, and media professional development courses.

* Developing and promoting media tools for gender sensitive reporting (gender sensitive language, databases of experts, journalist codes) but also continually monitoring their implementation in media content, in the community of journalists and their associations.

* Enhancing access to media for women rights defenders.

* Encouraging international cooperation agencies to include communication and gender as part of their agenda.

* Adoption and operationalization of gender-responsive communication policies by States, the media industry and relevant private sector.

Call to Action

All Governments

* To ensure the security and protection of women journalists, activists and other Human Rights defenders;

* To release writers and journalists who are imprisoned for reasons related to freedom of expression.

* To ensure internet security and protection;

* To close the digital divide;

* To ensure an accessible, available and affordable Internet for all persons in order that they fully benefit from its development potential and as an enabling space and resource for the realisation of all human rights, including the right to hold opinions without interference, the right to freedom of expression and information, the right to freedom of assembly and association, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

* To formulate and/or enforce policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the media. Affirmative action and positive discrimination should be applied where needed, in the public and private sectors;

* To develop and implement nationwide campaigns on gender equality and women's empowerment, with mainstreaming gender in

curricular as early as pre-school;
* With the participation of social, citizen and woman movements, to develop communication public policies to promote gender equity and to avoid sexism, discrimination, objectification of women's bodies in all communication media.

The UN and other International Agencies
* To go beyond recognizing "Women and Media" as a critical action area for women's empowerment, but deliberately allocate substantial resources to this theme to the same measure as other gender equality thematic areas;
* To stop treating "Women and Media" merely as a cross cutting issue, but recognize it as a standalone issue as well, which when given adequate attention, will trigger substantial success in other areas;
* To support in developing and enhancing the capacities of women-led media associations;
* To support efforts towards the formation and strengthening of women's media pursuing gender equality and inclusiveness, especially community radio stations;
* To support efforts towards building and sharing knowledge on "Women and Media";
* To support capacity building programs in promotion of women in the media at all levels, and also enhance the accessibility and effective utilization of the media by all women.

The New Emerging International or Regional Cooperation Agencies, and Multinational Agencies
* To include communication, women and gender as part of the development, policy and funding support agenda.

Media Houses
* To eliminate gender stereotypes and hate speech;
* To develop and/or adopt and implement gender sensitive policies, staffing, content

generation and reporting, among other areas;
* To ensure freedom of expression, and visibility for women of all diversities, conditions or backgrounds;
* To eliminate sensationalist media reporting that justifies and normalizes violence against women and girls;
* To ensure easy access, and utilization of the media by human rights defenders.

Universities and other Communication Training Spaces
* To mainstream gender in the training curricular, including local history and cultural diversity in the education and training of professionals in Communication Studies;
* To develop and promote media tools for gender sensitive reporting (gender sensitive language, databases of experts, journalistic codes) and also continually monitor their implementation in media content in the community of journalists and the associations / networks;
* To start or enhance the expansion of gender specific media research and documentation;
* To increase opportunities for digital and technical training for women media practitioners or managers.

Media Women Associations / Activists and Lobbyists
* To re-launch their gender equality and women's empowerment campaigns in the media with more vigour and deliberation given the new dynamics, for example:-
* To develop and implement campaigns directed at opinion makers and media consumers to raise public awareness on how issues of development affect women and how gender-sensitive media could re-shape this;
* To develop and implement capacity building sessions on selected themes for the empowerment of women in the media at all levels, including for those outside the media to effectively utilize it in self-expression or

wider campaigns;

* To continuously conduct gender-focussed media monitoring and, regularly and strategically share with stakeholders for immediate redress;

* To work with the public and the private sector to pursue gender equality and women's empowerment in, and by the media;

* To develop the needed capacities to mount effective campaigns for gender equality and women's empowerment in the media.

* In their role as communicators, to make visible the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

Men

* To assume their role on their own liberation from patriarchy, possessive and violent masculinities that must be overcome for egalitarian and just human relationships.

Individual Female Journalists / Practitioners or Managers

* As individuals, or through professional associations, to seek opportunities to enhance capacities to achieve and remain visible. ∎

Gender inequality perpetuated in and through the media complicates efforts to address discrimination against girls and women in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. WACC seeks to promote women's communication rights and advance gender equality in and through the media. WACC's partners apply gender-focussed news media monitoring to generate the evidence needed to support education, awareness, training, advocacy, and engagement with media professionals on gender issues in media policy and practice.

Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age

WACC, WCC et al.

This Manifesto is the outcome of a symposium on "Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age," held from 13–15 September 2021. The symposium explored the challenges of digital communication with a social justice lens, and identified opportunities for concerted and collaborative actions with faith communities and among faith, civil society, academic, media and technological organizations.

The symposium was organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the World Association for Christian Communication. Co-organizers include Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World), the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW, Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany), and the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF).

The event brought together research, experiences from different regions and marginalized communities, expert input on economic and political trends, and ethical and theological reflection as a contribution to the WCC's 11th Assembly in September 2022.

Our global context

Digital technologies are transforming our world and the multiple spaces in which we live and move. These technologies offer us new ways to communicate, to inform ourselves and navigate the world, to advocate for our human dignity and rights, and for our voices to be heard.

They create new ways for us to interact with each other beyond the boundaries of time and space.

They can be powerful tools for living in relation with others, for inclusion, education, encounter, imagination, creativity, and understanding.

Yet, digital technologies provide both opportunities and challenges.

Digital platforms are also being used to spread deliberate disinformation and hate and undermine human dignity and rights.

Politically motivated digital campaigns of "fake news" undermine democratic processes and responsible journalism.

While digital platforms seem to provide unfettered opportunities for freedom of expression, growing digital technology monopolies threaten a diversity of voices and perspectives.

Communication is increasingly mediated by proprietary platforms that promise a dream of democratized empowerment but monetize data and time in the so-called "attention economy". Users have become the new commodity.

Private data is increasingly requested, collected, and controlled by a small number of platforms to take advantage of people for economic and political purposes.

Surveillance, marginalization, and militarization are significant threats in digital spaces.

Algorithms developed according to subjective criteria reflect the ongoing effects of colonisation, racism and systemic power imbalances and exacerbate existing inequities and discrimination.

The COVID-19 pandemic also amplifies inequities -those who are digitally excluded become increasingly marginalized due to a shift to online learning and economies. Cybersecurity concerns are increased, particularly in healthcare.

Theological perspectives

This transformation of society raises profound issues that the ecumenical fellowship has wrestled with for many decades: power, justice, equity,

participation, promoting sustainable communities, how voices from the margins are heard, as well as human dignity.

In seeking to respond to the issues raised by digital transformation, we can find in many faith traditions an incredible depth of insight about what it means to be human and to live justly within the web of creation.

Two intrinsically connected aspects must play a central role in a theological reflection on digital justice: relationality and vulnerability.

Christians believe that being created in the image of God provides inherent dignity to every woman, man, and child (Gen 1:27.) Humans are created to be relational and capable of collaboration and communication. We are called to take responsibility and care for God's creation.

In Jesus Christ, God became vulnerable and shared human life. Therefore, creation and human beings remain at the centre of our reflections and our concerns. This shared vulnerability motivates us to protect individual and community rights and use digital technologies for the wellbeing of human beings. The biblical preferential option for the poor and vulnerable directs our attention to information poverty and the digital divides in the global face of digitization (Matt 5.)

We are called to a journey of justice and peace and to ensure the integrity of creation.

We are called to participate in God's mission to ensure that all may have life and have it abundantly, also in the digital sphere (John 10:10.)

In 2022, the ecumenical fellowship will gather in Karlsruhe, Germany, for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, in a world marred by many kinds of injustice and by the pain of many of its people, its creatures, and even of the Earth itself.

But it is also a world that is witnessing movements of change, justice, and hope.

Issues and challenges

Digitalization in its many forms raises new questions about human identity and freedom. Not

only social coherence but human dignity itself is at stake.

Digitalization also raises questions of ecological justice, including the use of resources and the planned obsolescence of digital technologies.

Political, cultural, and civil society actors, academic sectors, and communities of faith are all struggling to respond effectively.

To respond to challenges and opportunities of the digital age, we need an inclusive and holistic participatory approach that is both international and intergenerational, based on the sacred value of social justice.

This prompts us to ask: How can we envision and work for a communication and information ecosystem based on social justice principles such as inclusive participation, freedom, equity, sustainable life and solidarity, that

*   enables everyone to exercise fully their human rights, civil rights, and responsibilities
*   strengthens a sense of belonging and collective participation
*   encourages alliances and coalitions that build credibility, mutual accountability, and trust
*   seeks to include and celebrate missing, ignored, silenced, and marginalized voices in the digital sphere
*   combats explicit and implicit bias, racism, gender discrimination, and extremism in digital technologies
*   expresses solidarity with the communities it serves, and is not profit- or power-oriented
*   encourages platforms that promote community, cohesion, collaboration, and relationship building for human wellbeing and the wellbeing of the planet
*   encourages platforms that are transparent and openly name the values that drive the platform
*   leverages Open-Source technologies in a digital economy and shares knowledge and data as open knowledge

We identified the following specific challenges:

The Digital Divides: We face various digital divides: economic, geographic, racial, educational, class, gender, age, cultural, technological, and global. There are also digitally caused divides.

These digital divides point to both the complexity of social justice in a digital age and the need for intersectional reflection. Digital justice requires, at the same time, gender justice, climate justice, economic justice, racial justice, and so much more.

Accessibility: The primary concern is often seen as access to the digital space itself, emphasizing the difference between lower-, middle-, and higher-income economies, but also in-country differences. Meaningful access includes access to basic communication infrastructure such as stable electricity and internet connections, tech devices, access to various digital tools, data, programming and content from the local cultural context, but also the legal frameworks and economic resources to access and invest in them.

Access affects power relations and distributions of resources, and as such, access to digital technologies is both a cause and a result of divides.

Accessibility is an essential issue in the disabled community. Digitalization has improved participation in economic activity, entertainment, and social interaction for people with disabilities. Accessibility in this sphere, however, also remains divided along global wealth lines.

Public space: This is the space where states and the public interact, where people, including the media, can express thoughts and feelings and participate democratically. Digitalization creates the opportunity for expanding this space, but the restriction of digital freedom can also cause this space to shrink.

Inequity: Control, use, and analysis of data gathered due to digitalization are heavily vested in a few corporations and in specific geographic regions. Governments may also be heavily implicated in data control and manipulation.

Education: Digital education, including in questioning and critical examination of information and sources, is vital for all people. Access to this education is often sharply divided based on age, academic background, language, gender,

geographical location, and societal gender roles.

Gender justice: Women benefit from digitalization in the personal, educational, and economic arena, and active participation in the digital space can contribute to full participation in all domains of life. However, pervasive gender power inequities restrict this access.

Increased digitalization has also led to greater exposure of girls and women to sexualized harassment, surveillance, trolling, and online hate, which may also lead to physical violence. The impact of online violence is silencing women, forcing them to disengage from the digital space.

Privacy and security: The universal challenges of the use of data and loss of privacy are compounded by arbitrary government control, national digital laws and guidelines that are vague and fraught with loopholes, internet blackouts that clamp down on online dissent, and unwarranted state surveillance.

Militarization: There is military investment in digital technologies, and the technologies are in turn militarized –increasing risk in situations of war and conflict.

Principles to promote communication for social justice in a digital age

No matter the issue – violence against women, abuse of children, poverty, conflict resolution, self-determination, racism, migration, labour rights, Indigenous rights, health, land, climate – little can be done without effective communication.

For this, we need a holistic, inclusive approach to create digital technologies that promote life, dignity, and justice rather than undermine it. We need principles that allow all people to engage in transparent, informed, and democratic debate, where people have unfettered access to the information and knowledge essential to peaceful coexistence, empowerment, responsible civic engagement, and mutual accountability.

Rooted in the history of communication rights, these principles provide for a world in which:

* Everyone is entitled to communicate, to inform, and to share knowledge. This requires equitable access to communication infrastructures and the right to free expression.

* Everyone is entitled to participate in the information and communication society with particular consideration for minority and vulnerable groups. This requires inclusive and participatory governance of media infrastructures and digital platforms.

* Everyone is entitled to fair and unbiased public communication. This requires ethical norms, accountability, and redress for misrepresentation.

* Everyone is entitled to dignity and respect. This requires transparency and accountability of media and digital platforms.

* Everyone is entitled to privacy and control of their information, including deleting their data, provided they are not engaged in human rights abuses or criminal activity. This should be inherent and intrinsic to each person's digital identity and requires legal frameworks that balance the right to privacy and the protection of human rights.

* Everyone is entitled to their own cultural and linguistic identity. This requires spaces for linguistic and cultural diversity, and access to ownership and control of media.

* Everyone is entitled to communication skills and media literacy. This requires culturally appropriate training and building dialogue, conversation, listening, openness, and critical thinking skills.

* Everyone has access to sustainable power sources to enable their digital or electronic media. This requires access to technologies such as solar or wind power.

* Everyone is entitled to affordable devices or public access to devices in safe spaces. This requires economic resources as well as the Right to Repair.

A transformative movement

To achieve digital justice, we need a transforma-

tive movement of individuals, communities, educational institutions, media agencies, and civil society – including communities of faith. We need government policies and actions that are informed and supported by civil society, founded on human dignity, human rights, and democratic principles.

Fundamental rights will not prevail on their own or through voluntary commitments by corporations. The broad support and joint commitment of civil society, including churches and faith communities, political actors, science, and business, is needed to guarantee and protect civil rights in the digital age and make the digital space usable for the common good.

We gathered in the symposium on "Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age" to explore these issues – to reflect and to share visions of a future in which technologies are placed at the service of people rather than governments or corporations.

* We underlined the need for shared principles of inclusion, respect, and equity.
* We pointed to the vital importance of communication rights for marginalized peoples and communities worldwide.
* We affirmed that rights in digital spaces must be an extension of human rights in public spaces.
* We rejected any justification of online violence through misuse of the gospel.
* We agreed on the centrality of the rights of children and that young people have unique opportunities for intergenerational leadership in our digital transformation.
* We emphasized that collected (non-personal) data should be available to serve the common good.
* We underlined the need for increased accountability and transparency for corporations that have the power and ability to influence and shape public and political discourse.
* We highlighted the dangers of the darknet for illegal and harmful activities such as organ trafficking, human trafficking, sexual

exploitation, weapon- and drugs sales, and even recruitment to extremist organizations. We support interventions that help societies to eradicate these activities.
* We acknowledged the power of digital spaces as tools for oppressed communities to claim their identities and express themselves.
* We challenged faith communities to reach their potential to expand just digital access to those who are marginalized.

To unlock the opportunities and address the challenges of digital technologies, we need to re-imagine our digital public sphere continuously, emphasizing democracy, fundamental rights, mutual accountability, and solidarity.

We will work with state and civil society actors and faith groups, to create spaces and channels that are inclusive, interactive, and participatory, promoting digital justice, expanding public space, and creating visions for the future.

We will encourage theological and ethical critiques of the powers that operate unregulated, commercially driven digital spaces.

We will create a grassroots, faith-inspired resistance to the forces challenging human dignity and flourishing in digital spaces.

In a continued and collaborative process, we commit ourselves to develop a programme of action to create this re-imagined reality in different contexts.

We will continue to act together so that "justice roll(s) down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). ∎

Information as a public good

Windhoek+30 Declaration

We, the participants at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day International Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, 29 April – 3 May 2021:

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

COMMEMORATING the continuing relevance, legacy and role of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration as a catalyst for the proclamation of World Press Freedom Day, and as an inspiration for ongoing action to promote and protect freedom of expression, free, independent and pluralistic media, and access to information around the world;

APPRECIATING the impact and legacy of the regional declarations adopted in the wake of the Windhoek Declaration, namely the Alma Ata, Santiago, Sana'a and Sofia Declarations;

RECALLING the 2001 African Charter on Broadcasting adopted on the 10th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration in 2001, and the Pan-African Declaration on Access to Information adopted on the 20th anniversary in 2011;

REAFFIRMING paragraph 5 of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration, which states: "The world-wide trend towards democracy and freedom of information and expression is a fundamental contribution to the fulfilment of human aspirations";

EMPHASISING that information is a public good to which everyone is entitled and, as such, is both a means and an end for the ful-filment of collective human aspirations, including the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063;

CONVINCED that, as a public good, information empowers citizens to exercise their fundamental rights, supports gender equality, and allows for participation and trust in democratic governance and sustainable development, leaving no one behind; and that information as a public good is also a key underpinning of effective measures to address global emergencies, such as climate and health crises, specifically the Covid-19 pandemic;

RECOGNISING the role of journalism in producing and disseminating public interest information, especially in times of crisis, and emphasising the overriding importance of this role remaining free from capture or distorting influence;

ACKNOWLEDGING the far-reaching transformations of the information ecosystem since the adoption of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration, in particular the digital transformation and the enormous role played by the Internet and digital platforms in facilitating the sharing of knowledge and information, including for vulnerable, marginalised groups, independent journalists and human rights organisations;

RECALLING the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Co-operation and UNESCO's Internet principles of human rights, openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder governance (ROAM);

CONCERNED at the increasing proliferation, amplification and promotion, through human and automated systems, of potentially harmful content digitally, including disinformation and hate speech, which undermines people's rights and the quality of collective public debate;

COGNISANT of the fact that there are no easy solutions to modern digital challenges which are both effective in addressing potential harms and yet maintain respect for freedom of expression as guaranteed under international law;

ALARMED by both enduring and new threats to the safety of journalists and the free

exercise of journalism, including killings, harassment of women, offline and online attacks, intimidation and the promotion of fear, and arbitrary detentions, as well as the adoption of laws which unduly restrict freedom of expression and access to information in the name, among other things, of prohibiting false information, protecting national security and combating violent extremism; and also deeply concerned at the increasing numbers of Internet disruptions, including Internet shutdowns, particularly during elections and protests;

TROUBLED by the severe economic crisis which is posing an existential threat to independent news media worldwide, and recalling that economic sustainability of free media is a key prerequisite for its independence, as enshrined in paragraph 2 of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration, which states: "By an independent press, we mean a press independent from governmental, political and economic control or from control of materials and infrastructure essential for the production and dissemination of newspapers, magazines and periodicals";

HIGHLIGHTING the urgency of equipping citizens worldwide, including youth and marginalised groups, with media and information literacy competences, developed through a gender sensitive approach, to enable them to navigate the evolving information landscape, and to promote freedom of expression and access to information as a public good. We therefore:

Call on all governments to:

1. COMMIT to creating a positive enabling environment for freedom of expression and access to information, online and offline, in line with international guarantees of these rights, including a free, independent and pluralistic media, through adopting appropriate legal measures in a transparent manner and following adequate public consultation, guaranteeing the exercise of journalism free of governmental interference, whether formal or informal, promoting universal access to the Internet, and taking measures to reinforce the safety of journalists, including with a

specific focus on women journalists;

2. TAKE effective steps to nurture a diversity of viable public, private and community media, and implement specific policies, along with relevant safeguards, to promote the production of independent, quality journalism, with the aim of ensuring people's access to relevant, diverse and reliable information;

3. ENSURE that flows of funding from public sources to the media, including subsidies and advertising, are allocated fairly and overseen in an independent and transparent manner; and guarantee investment in journalism and jobs, while respecting gender equality and promoting decent working conditions;

4. MAINSTREAM media and information literacy into strategies and action plans in order to build the resilience of citizens to misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and promote civic participation in democratic life;

5. ALLOCATE adequate human, financial and technical resources, including as part of development assistance support, to ensure the proper implementation of the steps and measures outlined in this Declaration.

Call on UNESCO and other intergovernmental organisations to:

6. REINFORCE cooperation with governments and civil society organisations in order to safeguard and enhance guarantees for the full exercise of the right to information and freedom of expression, both online and offline, with a particular focus on strengthening media freedom, pluralism and independence as well as media viability, transparency of digital platforms, and media and information literacy;

7. ENCOURAGE the development of joint funding instruments supported by a combination of States, multilateral institutions, private foundations and philanthropists to promote information as a public good.

Call on technology companies to:

8. WORK to ensure transparency in relation to their human and automated systems which could impact user interaction with content, as well as their terms and conditions of service;

9. PROVIDE robust notice and appeals opportunities to users, process complaints and redress requests from users in a fair manner, and take action whenever their terms and conditions of service are breached;

10. CONDUCT transparent human rights risk assessments, including to identify threats to freedom of expression, access to information and privacy, take appropriate action to eliminate or mitigate those threats, and disclose the impact of those actions

11. SUPPORT information as a public good in various ways, for example through fair and inclusive partnership arrangements, which may include donations or other financial measures, and the protection of journalists who are the victims or at risk of online attacks.

Call on journalists, media outlets, civil society and academia to:

12. ADVOCATE with States and digital platforms, as part of their wider protection of freedom of expression and information as a public good, to recognise media viability as a development priority;

13. UNDERTAKE monitoring, advocacy, research, policy development, awareness raising, including among official actors, and the provision of expertise and support to address problems caused by measures taken by governments and digital platforms, including due to their lack of transparency, and to increase their engagement in media and information literacy actions;

14. PROMOTE a more inclusive, pluralistic and sustainable media sector, including through measures that promote the involvement of young people, women and marginalised groups in the media.

Call to collective action:

15. WORK TOGETHER to ensure the effective realisation of the steps and measures outlined in this Declaration;

16. AGREE AND ADOPT new and innovative measures and mechanisms, including of a multilateral and multi-stakeholder nature, following broad consultative processes, to ensure respect by States for freedom of expression and access to information, and that digital platforms' practices and systems which affect user interaction with information are appropriately transparent;

17. COLLABORATE through multilateral fora to promote respect by governments, intergovernmental organisations and digital platforms for human rights, including freedom of expression, access to information and the safety of journalists.

The world today faces critical new and historic challenges to freedom of expression which require concerted global action by all stakeholders. The 1991 Windhoek Declaration was a bold and forward-looking statement that has helped to change the world for the better over the last 30 years. It is now time for the generation of 2021 to make our contribution.

Press freedom, independence and pluralism remain major goals to guarantee information as a public good that serves as a shared resource for the whole of humanity. To these goals we now add those of media viability, transparency of digital platforms, and citizens empowered with media and information literacy.

This Windhoek+30 Declaration pays tribute to those who opened up this path. Now, let each of us resolve to do our part to help secure information as a public good as an urgent need today, and as a legacy for those who come after us.

In closing, we express appreciation to the government and people of Namibia for hosting the historic World Press Freedom Conference. Their generosity has opened the road to take forward information as a public good. ∎

Digital Justice: Manifesto: A Call to Own Our Digital Future

Just Net Coalition

The emerging digital future is generally greeted with a mixture of positive anticipation, awe, helplessness and even horror. Such a merely passive reaction to society's most powerful driving force is both dangerous and unnecessary. There is no time to lose in taming the power of the digital. We can either surrender our digital future, or we can take ownership of it. But first we must understand what lies behind the digital.

Industrialisation harnessed massive physical power from sources beyond those of people and animals, which transformed the processes of production. This is known as mechanisation. A digital economy and society is created by harnessing external (nonhuman) sources of "intelligence power", in the form of immense data-based intelligence, which is revolutionising the forces of production. This can be called the "intelligencification" of socio-economic processes.

Colonisation bore horrific witness to how industrial power coupled with imperatives of capital was almost impossible to resist or challenge by those subjected to it. Yet the power of others owning detailed intelligence about us, that is employed to generate unprecedented economic and political control, is perhaps worse than anything we have experienced so far.

Data, intelligence and techno-structures

Data must inter alia be recognised as a key economic resource. Currently, the resource of data gets globally appropriated at will; harvested without permission or recompense, and accumulated by data corporations for their exclusive use. We must choose whether to allow corporations to own our data, or we, the people, should own it. The people, after all, are both the contributors and subjects of data. Data corporations take advantage of the lack of any legal economic rights around data, to entrench their data practices as default law. Legal regimes are urgently required that affirm people's rights and ownership over their data – both individual and collective.

Digital "intelligencification" was preceded and enabled by the spread of networked software as the space, means and logic of our social, economic, political and cultural interactions and relationships. The Internet was its first prototype. As the Internet's core model was based on intelligence at the edges and on open, public protocols, it spawned a technical and social evolution that many believed would favour greater end-user control and decentralisation. Cloud computing – currently the dominant networked software model – has inverted this paradigm: intelligence is now monopolised by a few global centres, based on corporate control of data and private standards. The ubiquitous spread of Internet-based cloud applications enables the relentless collection of the most intimate and granular real-time data about us, the people. This is what builds the powerful autonomous intelligence behind the phenomenon of digital society.

At the centre of intelligent digital systems are a few global businesses – "intelligence corporations", whose services are based on digital intelligence or artificial intelligence (AI). These corporations first connect, then coordinate, and ultimately control all actors and activities in any sector – from transport and commerce to health and education. They become the "brain" of every sector. Global intelligence corporations operate remotely through techno-structures of cloud computing. Bypassing face-to-face human interactions, they thus avoid responsiveness and accountability, as well as legal and regulatory checks.

Reclaiming power from 'intelligence cor-

porations' requires us to work on two main fronts. First, wrest back ownership of our personal and collective data and intelligence. These are the key sources of digital power. And, second, take sufficient control over the techno-structures within which data and intelligence operate. These technostructures spread wide and deep into society, controlling and exploiting everything they reach.

Unlike in the offline world where socio-economic interactions mostly take place in public or quasi-public spaces, in the digital world they are all enclosed within privately owned technostructures. Yet, intelligent systems can operate productively even when their intelligence, as well as the key nodes and pillars of their techno-structures, are distributed and collectively owned. This would involve employing the best possibilities of entrepreneurship and competitive markets, combined with critically important non-market collective mechanisms. Such alternatives must be shaped at the same time as the exploitative dominant models of centralised intelligence control are undone. The digital reshapes our social relationships and power structures so fundamentally that society's data and intelligence governance requires a new digital social contract.

In our determination and struggle to enable people to own their digital futures, we adopt the following principles towards a digital society that is just, equitable and sustainably productive.

Resolutions and Principles

1. Data subjects must own their data – individually and collectively: Data about us, and intelligence about us, inherently belong to us – as individuals, and as communities. Such data could directly be about people, or about things owned by or associated with them. Political, constitutional, and legal frameworks, at both national and international levels, must recognise and enforce this basic principle of data and intelligence ownership.

2. Our data requires protection from abuse: The international human rights regime must recognise the inextricable interconnection between people and their data, and articulate benchmarks for safeguarding personal and collective data. Strong constitutional and legal protections are required against abuse of personal and collective data and intelligence, whether by corporations or the state. New laws and institutions that keep evolving to address emergent new risks are re-

quired for this purpose.

3. We need the tools to control our data: The purpose of data and intelligence must not be to distinguish between people for unfair or discriminatory treatment, but to help and enable them to maximise digital benefits. Individuals and communities must be provided appropriate means to control their data, and apply it in ways best suited to their interests. Such means will be both individual and collective, requiring institutions that are adequate, agile and accountable. Institutional innovation in this regard will require well-regulated open markets ensuring competitive businesses, as well as new commons and public structures.

4. Data commons need appropriate governance frameworks: Appropriate data commons and intelligence commons are required to be developed. But data and intelligence cannot simply be open access resources. To prevent their abuse, boundaries and protections are essential. Being specific to particular individuals or groups and communities, unchecked access to, and use of, data and intelligence commons bear the potential for harm. The ways in which data actually gets employed by digital businesses, data and intelligence commons are akin to "common pool resources" – subject to overuse, depletion, congestion, rivalry and pollution. Requiring regulated use, data and digital intelligence must be subject to "common property regimes". This calls for the development of necessary data and intelligence governance frameworks.

5. Data protection, sharing and use require new institutions: Innovative and robust institutions are needed for sharing of data and intelligence in a protected and regulated manner. Data institutions, such as data commons, data trusts, data infrastructures, and fair data markets, must be developed. These should also involve mandated data sharing, as and where appropriate. Businesses and other entities have to be simultaneously provided with sufficient incentives, within a public interest framework, for them to collect the necessary data and process it into useful intelligence.

6. Data-creating work ought to come with data rights: Specific economic groups that make marked contributions to, and are key subjects of, data in a particular sector or an "intelligent system", should have corresponding special data ownership rights. These could be drivers on a taxi platform, traders on an e-commerce platform, farmers on an agri-platform or workers in data-producing jobs. These groups must have primary economic rights – individual and collective – over the data they contribute. Such data constitutes the main value of the corresponding platform or intelligent system. Data-creating actors on a platform therefore have the right to participate in the governance of that platform, for example through adequate representation on the governing board. Alternatively, they may choose to pool their data to develop platform cooperatives, or a public or non-profit agency could help them to so organise.

7. Data should be processed close to the point of its origin: In contrast to the current situation where digital activities on the ground are largely remote-controlled "satellite operations" of a few global corporations, digital should have a pronounced localness and community control. Important data will need to be localised in many cases. If data is processed close to its point of origin, data subjects can have more effective control over their data. Necessary technical, policy and business models should be employed towards a local-to-global architecture of data and digital services. Technologies already exist for decentralised data control, and further innovations will emerge as society demands them.

8. Cross-border data flows must be decided nationally: The data-owning national community must determine the terms on which cross-border flows of data may take place. Irrespective of its physical location, data should be subject to the primary jurisdiction of its country of origin. As personal data is an extension of one's person-hood, so also community data is an extension of community identity and being. Such primary jurisdiction involves not just privacy protections but also economic rights and owner-

ship. Agreements among countries are required to mutually recognise, and help apply, primary jurisdiction over data – involving social, political and economic rights – of the country and community of origin of data. Regional groups that manage to enter such inter-country agreements may gain mutual benefit from common data and digital spaces.

9. Techno-structures need to be reclaimed as personal and public spaces: Networked software or cloud applications form the digital space, and the body of digital systems. These may be

termed as the key digital techno-structures. They are currently almost entirely centralised and owned by a handful of corporations. Some, like those running heart pacemakers or mobile phones, penetrate deep into our personal realms; and some, like social networking, search, and transport applications, are analogous to what in the offline world are public spaces and structures, such as public streets, libraries and infrastructural services. Digital techno-structures' personalness and publicness, as applicable, must be reclaimed from the existing state of their complete, end-to-end, corporate ownership and control.

10. We should own our software and be able to control it: People must fully own, and be able to control, the software they install in their personal or collectively owned equipment. Technology Protection Measures are incursions upon people's basic rights. People should have the right to own, break-into, modify or remove, as they deem fit, whatever technical artefacts that exist within their personal or collective realms. This is a fundamental element of digital self-determination.

11. Key digital infrastructures need to be governed as public utilities: In the physical world, non-personal, social and economic spaces and structures are divided between being public and belonging to private businesses. Infrastructure is normally public, or quasi-public, over and around which businesses may undertake their private activities. Digital spaces and structures require a similar arrangement. Key monopolistic digital infrastructures should be governed as public utilities, even if they are provided by private businesses. This includes, as appropriate, computing platforms, search engines, social networks, email services, basic security systems, payment services, and e-commerce platforms.

12. Techno-structures must be decentralised for open use, with interoperability: Digital power can be redistributed by decentralising the techno-structures of connectivity, software, Internet, cloud computing, and AI applications, while mandating interoperability. Such decentralisation is useful even where it entails some degree of immediate loss of efficiency. Apart from being fairer, decentralised digital power is more sustainably productive in the long term. Decentralised and open digital architectures include open community networks, open source

software, an open and neutral Internet, open and community data, and open and community AI. These can and should involve appropriate business models and entities. Any such open system must however duly protect the data and digital intelligence of the people and communities concerned, and affirm their right to self-determination.

13. Global digital monopolies should be broken: National and international competition regimes, that are adequate to the new digital realities, must break up vertically and horizontally integrated global digital structures. These regimes should aim at ex ante open, competitive and innovation-supporting digital market structures, and not just narrowly construed ex post consumer welfare that looks only at availability and price of goods and services. The focus should be on cutting problematic links in data and intelligence value chains that underpin and promote digital monopolies.

14. Societies' datafication needs to be managed democratically: Areas facing or undergoing datafication and "intelligencification" require a three-way classification. Many kinds of datafication and "intelligencification" are just not desirable, whatever their touted benefits. In other areas, while potentially useful in the long run, these processes may call for deliberate slowing down and appropriate governance, to deal with the possibilities of considerable short- to mid-term harm. Such harm could range from livelihood disruptions to requirements of significant behavioural and cultural shifts that can be disorienting. Where datafication and "intelligencification" are evidently beneficial to undertake right away, people, and their representatives, should be in control of their implementation. These processes tend to have strong unanticipated social consequences and must take place on democratically determined terms. A global human rights framework on data and intelligence governance should incorporate such a classification and the corresponding due diligence.

15. Digital standards must be developed by public interest bodies: A major factor behind the current end-to-end digital control by a few digital corporations is the privatisation of digital standards development and non-enforcement of interoperability. We must reclaim development of key digital technical standards exclusively by public interest bodies, and ensure strict compliance with such standards. These bodies should be based on public-interest oriented expertise, under the appropriate oversight of people's representatives. Standards-developing bodies should uphold the highest public and professional standards, be neutral and not aligned to any specific corporate or political interests, and fully eschew conflicts of interest.

16. The digital has to be governed in a local-to-global manner: Digital platforms provide services that have traditionally been largely developed and governed locally – like communication, media, commerce, transport, hotels, health and education. Having now become intelligence-driven does not necessarily mean that these services shed their localness. The required new digital, data and intelligence governance structures and institutions will mostly be at national or local community levels, while some could be global. National polities still remain the anchors of self-determination and sovereignty of the people. Appropriate global governance of the digital should promote national and local digital economies. It ought to ensure that competitive and open global technical services are accessible locally – including by local digital businesses – on fair and regulated terms. Digital governance must aim at a complete break from the current vertically-integrated global digital models – from concentrated intelligence or "brain" centres in one or two countries of the world, right down to the last tiny "nerves" that seek to control the smallest activity everywhere in a digital economy and society.

We propose these principles as the basis for a new governance architecture of a digital society that is just and humane. JustNetCoalition.

Photo credits: Metamorworks/Shutterstock (p. 44); Julio Ortega/Shutterstock (p. 46).

The Copenhagen Pledge

Tech for Democracy

We believe that the future of democracy relies on our ability to leverage and steer the digital transformation of society in ways that capitalize on its opportunities, while also confronting the challenges.

We stand at a crucial junction in the history of democracy, and we need to jointly, responsibly, and proactively develop and use digital technologies and online spaces to cultivate and strengthen democracy, human rights, and the rule of law around the world.

We consider digital technologies, when developed and used responsibly, to be of great potential for supporting democratic institutions, increasing transparency and accountability in governance, and for protecting and promoting human rights. A human rights-based approach to digital technologies and responsible handling of data can help foster a democratic culture, broaden civic engagement in democratic processes, and enhance the open and free exchange of ideas so vital to democracies.

Nevertheless, our expectations and aspirations for the use of digital technologies to work for – and not against – democracy and the enjoyment of human rights have not been fully met. We condemn the exploitation of digital technologies by State and non-State actors to repress and undermine democracy and the enjoyment of human rights, and we recognize that some digital technologies may be exploited to control and infringe upon civic spaces both online and offline.

We remain deeply concerned about approaches to the development and use of digital technologies or to governance that are inconsistent with international human rights law, free and fair elections, and the vision of an open, accessible, secure, and reliable Internet.

We have an opportunity and a joint obligation to develop, use, and promote technology in a manner that strengthens democracy. Therefore, we, a multi-stakeholder alliance of governments, multilateral organizations, civil society, and technology companies, hereby commit to working together on promoting a vision for the digital age – based on democratic values and principles.

We believe that the human rights and fundamental freedoms that people have offline must also be protected and promoted online, and we therefore pledge to ensure that the development and use of digital technologies support democratic institutions and processes and contribute to an open and democratic debate online that allows for the free exchange and expression of ideas, by:

*   applying our shared democratic values and a human rights-based approach in the design, development, deployment, and use of digital technologies;
*   sharing best practices, promoting responsible people-centric approaches, and partnering on inclusive solutions for democracy online and human rights-based digital governance;
*   developing digital public goods to promote a safe, active, respectful and tolerant civic participation in democratic processes online.

Make use of digital technologies to enhance the digital resilience and mobilization of civil society, including journalists, pro-democracy activists, and human rights defenders worldwide, by:

*   supporting the development and use of digital technologies by and for civil society actors to help protect against human rights violations and abuses and to strengthen accountability;
*   enhancing capacity-development, awareness raising, and available resources to increase the digital literacy and digital safety of civil society;
*   using digital technologies proactively to narrow digital divides, with a particular focus on marginalized, vulnerable, or disenfranchised groups worldwide. ∎

Tech for Democracy. 18 November 2021.

The Public Service Media and Public Service Internet Manifesto

UNESCO

This Manifesto (2021) is a call to save and advance democratic communications by renewing Public Service Media and creating a Public Service Internet.

Key Principles and Messages

Principle 1

Democracy and digital democracy require Public Service Media. We call for the safeguarding of the existence of Public Service Media.

Principle 2

A democracy-enhancing Internet requires Public Service Media becoming Public Service Internet platforms that help to advance opportunities and equality in society. We call for the creation of the legal, economic and organisational foundations of such platforms.

Principle 3

Public Service Media content is distinctive from commercial media and data companies. It addresses citizens, not consumers.

Principle 4

Public Service Internet platforms realise fairness, democracy, participation, civic dialogue and engagement on the Internet.

Principle 5

The Public Service Internet requires new formats, new content, and vivid co-operation with the creative sectors of our societies.

Principle 6

Public Service Media should continue to be supported and funded so that they have the resources they need to realise and further develop their remit. In addition, the Public Service Internet requires sustainable funding that is based on mechanisms such as the licence fee, the Nordic model of a public service tax, and transnational funding mechanisms.

Principle 7

The Public Service Internet promotes equality and diversity.

Principle 8

The Public Service Internet provides opportunities for public debate, participation, and the advancement of social cohesion.

Principle 9

The Public Service Internet is a driver of change in the creation of new content and services while creating a sustainable ecosystem for media innovations.

Principle 10

Public Service Media and the Public Service Internet contribute to a democratic, sustainable, fair, just, and resilient society.

Crisis and Utopia: Renewing Public Service

The original idea was simple and changed society: A public broadcasting service that is paid for out of public funds, independent of government, equally accessible to all, provides trusted information and analysis of issues that are of common concern, makes programmes that reflect the diversity and complexity of contemporary life.

Introduced first in Great Britain, with the launch of the BBC in the 1920s, this vision of public service broadcasting was adopted and adapted around the world. After the devastations caused by the Second World War, public service broadcasting re- emerged in Germany where it helped to restore democracy. It was a cornerstone in further waves of democratisation.

In 2021, the world again faces a global crisis: a pandemic crisis, accelerating climate change, persistent and deep social inequalities, increasing political polarisation, and an infodemic crisis where lots of misinformation is spread online. The dominant forms and uses of digital technologies and the Internet endanger democracy. They undermine the indispensable resources of trusted information, in-depth analysis, rational debate, and diversity of representation that allow us to fully understand the challenges we face.

That Public Service Media simply moves to the platforms operated and controlled by the commercial digital giants is not a sufficient option. Establishing a public service channel on YouTube or Facebook supports the digital major's cultural centrality and offers no alternative to their operating procedures and business models. Public Service Media requires a Public Service Internet.

1. The Way Forward

The Internet and the media landscape are broken. The dominant commercial Internet platforms endanger democracy. They have created a communications landscape dominated by surveillance, advertising, fake news, hate speech, conspiracy theories, and algorithmic politics that tailors and personalises commercial and political content according to individual tastes and opinions. As currently organised, the Internet separates and divides instead of creating common spaces for negotiating difference and disagreement. Commercial Internet platforms have harmed citizens, users, everyday life, and society. Despite all the great opportunities the Internet has offered to society and individuals, the digital giants led by Apple, Alphabet/Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Alibaba, Facebook, and Tencent have acquired unparalleled economic, political and cultural power.

However, public communication is more than business. It is a public purpose. This is why we call for action.

We have a vision. We strive for a revitalisation and renewal of Public Service Media in the digital age. Public Service Media that are fit for the 21st century. We dream of a different Internet and a different media landscape. We envision the creation of a Public Service Internet: an Internet of the public, by the public, and for the public; an Internet that advances instead of threatens democracy and the public sphere, and an Internet that provides a new and dynamic shared space for connection, exchange and collaboration.

The Public Service Internet is based on Internet platforms operated by a variety of Public Service Media, taking the public service remit into the digital age in co-operation with civil society, individual media users, citizens, and the creative, cultural and educational sector. The Public Service Internet advances democracy. It enhances the public sphere. It supports active citizenship by providing comprehensive information and analysis, diversity of social representation and creative expression, and extended opportunities for participation. Public Service Internet platforms can support new and young creatives who will build the cultural industries of tomorrow and foster social cohesion.

Now is the time for a Public Service Internet and revitalised Public Service Media.

2. Public Service Media-Visions

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the continuing indispensability of Public Service Media. Locked down at home and faced with the constant danger of infection, audiences have turned to Public Service Media for trusted sources of objective and impartial information; high quality educational materials for home-schooling; diverse entertainment and drama; and a reference point in times of crisis. Since its foundation, public service broadcasting has been defined by a commitment to universality and independence. These core values must be retained and extended.

Public Service Media must provide a universal service equally available to everyone. This requires a continuing commitment to guaranteed public funding to ensure that Internet access and Public Service Media are available to all as a right of citizenship.

Image: European Journalism Observatory. Jonathan, Flickr CC licence

Public Service Media must defend its independence and ensure that editorial and creative decisions are independent from governmental and business interests. Safeguarding Public Service Media's role as a trusted and independent source of information and analysis and as a responsible mediator and moderator of user- generated comment and content requires transparent procedures of accountability. Such procedures need to be based on clear ethical principles.

Public Service Media must promote diversity. To ensure that it provides a service that is universally relevant and engaging, Public Service Media must aim to reflect the social, regional, economic, political, cultural, and religious diversity and complexity of everyday life. Ensuring that the full range of experiences and voices are seen and heard requires a renewed commitment to widening the social bases of recruitment to creative and institutional positions opening opportunities to minorities underrepresented in the mainstream commercial media.

Public Service Media must be a driver of change in the creation of new content and services. Public Service Media news and entertainment affairs production should pay particular attention to developing innovative styles of media production that highlight, explain, and contextualise issues with far-reaching social implications and their possible consequences.

Public Service Media must build on its proven strengths to produce innovative programmes and online content that supports children's educational development, speak to the full range of young people's interests and concerns, and provides comprehensive resources for lifelong adult learning. In the digital future, as in the past, entertainment, drama and sport events will remain central sites of public cultural expression and social solidarity.

Public Service Media must play a central role in maximising the social value of public cultural resources. Public service broadcasting emerged alongside an array of other publicly funded cultural institutions: museums, libraries, art galleries, universities, archives, and performance spaces. Public Service Media offers a readily accessible platform for collaborative ventures.

Public Service Media are ideally placed to create and house a new public service search engine and platform, directing users to the full range of freely available relevant materials produced and curated by public educational and cultural institutions.

Public Service Media must provide new opportunities for participation to safeguard inclusion and democracy. Civil society supports a rich variety of self- organised, collaborative, activity-producing shared collective resources, from community choirs to groups protecting wildlife habitats and campaigning for disadvantaged groups together with new forms of digital action, from creating open source software to contributing to citizen science projects. Public Service Media must use the full range of voluntary engagement and develop new forms of popular participation in key areas such as the production of programmes and the creation of public Internet resources.

3. Digital Public Service Media: Towards a Public Service Internet

The digital giants have weakened democracy and the Internet. We need a new Internet. We need to rebuild the Internet. While the contemporary Internet is dominated by monopolies and commerce, the Public Service Internet is dominated by democracy. While the contemporary Internet is dominated by surveillance, the Public Service Internet is privacy-friendly and transparent. While the contemporary Internet misinforms and separates the public, the Public Service Internet engages, informs and supports the public. Although the contemporary Internet is driven by and drives the profit principle, the Public Service Internet puts social needs first.

Data privacy is a core aspect of the Public Service Internet. The Public Service Internet provides role model practices of data processing. Public Service Internet software and its contents are a common good that can be reused for non-commercial purposes. On Public Service Internet platforms, users can manage their data, download and re-use their self-curated data for reuse on other platforms. The digital giants store every click and every online move we make to monitor and monetise our behaviour. Public Service Internet platforms *minimise and decentralise data storage* and have no need to monetise and monitor Internet use. Public Service Internet platforms experiment with new forms of content licencing that advance the cultural and digital commons for not-for-profit and non-commercial purposes.

Realising the Public Service Internet requires *new ideas, new technologies, new policies, and new economic models.* Public Service Media has the potentials it takes for becoming the key force that advances democratic communications in the digital age. Public Service Media and their Public Service Internet platforms need support and enablement. The licence fee that sustains Public Service Media is not a mechanism of the past but one for the digital future. The digital licence fee will extend and transform Public Service Media's licence fee in the digital age.

Public Service Media should continue to be supported and funded so that they have the *resources they need* to realise and further develop their remit. In addition, the *Public Service Internet requires sustainable funding* that is based on mechanisms such as the licence fee, the Nordic model of a public service tax, and transnational funding mechanisms.

Public Service Internet platforms *treat users and workers fairly.* They are independent from corporate and political power. They are spaces where critical, independent journalists make high-quality news and where creative professionals make high-quality programmes that educate, inform, and entertain in ways that reflect the affordances of the digital age. They engage citizens in new forms that build on the experiences, structures and content of the public service broadcast model. Public Service Internet platforms build on the broadcast model and go beyond it by making full use of and transforming the creative potentials of digital technologies and user participation. Public Service Media's remit will thereby be transformed into a new digital public service remit.

The Public Service Internet's algorithms are *public service algorithms*. Such algorithms are open source and transparent. They are programmed in ways that advance the digital public service remit. Public service algorithms are algorithms by the public, for the public, and of the public. Public service algorithms help organising the platforms, formats, and contents of the Public Service Internet by making recommendations and suggestions based on transparent procedures and without advertising, commerce, and surveillance. Public service algorithms are committed to reflect the diversity of the public and advance accessibility, fairness, and inclusivity.

The Internet is global. The public sphere is global. The Public Service Internet and its platforms should be *global, regional, and local.* Such platforms can be accessed by anyone at any time and from anywhere. Public Service Internet platforms maximise the availability and permanence of Public Service Internet contents that contribute to humanity's cultural heritage. Public Service Internet platforms are ideally operated as international networks of Public Service Media organisations. For operating Public Service Internet platforms, Public Service Media organisations co-operate with others, including public organisations (universities, museums, libraries, and so on), civil society, civic and community media, artists, digital commons projects, platform co-operatives, and so on. There is a sharing of content between such public and civic organisations on a joint platform. As a result, Public Service Media organisations together with public interest organisations create public open spaces that are mediated by Internet communication and that together form the Public Service Internet. An example for advancing the Public Service Internet is that European Public Service Internet Platforms based on the already existing infrastructures of the European Public Service Broadcasters could co- operate in creating a European Public Service Internet platform.

The public service Internet requires a *global communications infrastructure.* Such a global infrastructure is independent from commercial and

"A framework is needed that enables, empowers, and transforms; that challenges power structures and sociocultural traditions to guarantee the public voices and genuine participation of everyone." Book available from the Centre for Communication Rights.

governmental interest and serve citizens and democracy.

4. Imagining Public Service Media Utopias in 2040

The contemporary Internet is the Internet of the corporate digital giants. However, an alternative Internet is possible. A Public Service Internet is possible. In fact, a Public Service Internet is needed. We envision a world where the Internet serves the public and advances democracy.

In 2040, Public Service Media will have remembered its future. It has adapted and transformed its *public service* mission to inform, educate

and entertain according to an open and transparent digital society. It advances cultural citizenship renews its contract with society.

In 2040, Public Service Media's quality is *distinctive from commercial media and data companies.* It reaches the majority of the population. It serves humans' daily personal and societal needs. It addresses citizens, not consumers.

In 2040, Public Service Media *is sustainably funded* and based on a *reformed licence fee* that is accepted by citizens. The Public Service Internet's value for money is comprehensively documented, evaluated, publicly controlled, and transparent to the public.

In 2040, a new, radical governance structure has made *Public Service Media independent from any external influences* like government and business interests. There are public hearings. There is quality control. Individuals feel represented by Public Service Media and its programming. They feel that Public Service Media's reporting is as neutral as possible, not influenced by any external pressures. Public Service Media news features public opinion.

In 2040, Public Service Media is *universal.* It reaches out to all parts of society, including fragmented and less educated audiences, info-avoiders, and minorities.

In 2040, Public Service Media organisations are wealth creators for the creative sector that provide visibility to many artists such as musicians and filmmakers. In 2040, Public Service media delivers and creates high-quality entertainment in order to reflect and represent *the culture and diversity of everyday life.*

In 2040, Public Service Media operates on the *local, national, regional and global level.* It invests into quality journalism, including investigative journalism, innovative formats, new technologies with appealing user experience for different groups in society. Young people see public service journalism as an attractive and viable environment of information, communication, collaboration, and participation.

In 2040, Public Service Media is *present, accessible and discoverable* on all relevant platforms. In 2040, Public Service Media is fully present in the digital sphere and provides the right content at the right points of time tailored to a plurality of devices and user habits. Public Service Media stays connected to and closely listens to all of its audiences and stakeholders. It answers to society's important challenges and issues. It effectively communicates its own contribution to society, its public value.

In 2040, Public Service Media has developed a *collaborative programme* with schools, focusing on *media literacy and digital literacy* through online courses and educational kits developed by Public Service Media. The advancement of digital and media literacy in society, including in schools, based on the values of public service media is a key aspect of education.

In 2040, Public Service Media's *workforce is highly diverse* in terms of social class, ethnicity, gender, age, cultural background, and geographic origin. Public Service Media's hiring mechanisms are inclusive and transparent.

In 2040, Public Service Media has transformed from one-to-many-broadcasting institutions into a *network infrastructure* that is guided by principles of public network value. Public network value means the use of digital communication networks such as the Internet for advancing Public Service Media's remit to facilitate public benefit, information, education and learning, democracy, citizenship, culture, civil society, creativity, and entertainment. The Public Service Internet is a networked infrastructure that advances the digital commons and digital citizenship. It strengthens universal access, communication, participation, co-operation, inclusion, and democracy.

A *different media world* is possible. A Public Service Internet and revitalised Public Service Media are urgently needed for sustaining democracy. We call on all audience members, citizens, users, readers, experts and non-experts, inside and outside of Public Service Media, in fact all citizens who care for the future of democracy in our countries to *participate in the quest for strengthening Public Service Media and creating a Public Service Internet.* ∎

Sign the Manifesto: http://bit.ly/signPSManifesto

European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade

European Commission

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission solemnly proclaim the following joint Declaration (2022).

Preamble

(1) The digital transformation affects every aspect of people's lives. It offers significant opportunities for a better quality of life, innovation, economic growth and sustainability, but it also presents new challenges for the fabric, security and stability of our societies and economies. With the acceleration of the digital transformation, the time has come for the European Union (EU) to spell out how its values and fundamental rights should be applied in the online world.

(2) The Parliament has made several calls for ensuring the full compliance of the Union's approach to the digital transformation with fundamental rights such as data protection or non-discrimination, and with principles such as technological and net neutrality, and inclusiveness.[1] It has also called for a strengthened protection of users' rights in the digital environment.[2]

(3) Building on previous initiatives such as the "Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment" and the "Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-based Digital Government", the Council has called, through the "Lisbon Declaration – Digital Democracy with a Purpose" for a model of digital transformation that strengthens the human dimension of the digital ecosystem with the Digital Single Market as its core. The Council also called for a model of digital transition that ensures that technology assists in the need to take climate action and protect the environment.

(4) The EU vision for digital transformation puts people at the centre, empowers individuals and fosters innovative businesses. The Commission has recently presented a Proposal for a Decision on a "Path to the Digital Decade", which sets out the concrete digital targets based on four cardinal points (digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and of public services) that will help us achieve this vision. The Union way for the digital transformation of our societies and economy should encompass digital sovereignty, inclusion, equality, sustainability, resilience, security, trust, improving quality of life, respect of people' rights and aspirations and should contribute to a dynamic, resource-efficient and fair economy and society in the Union.

(5) The Declaration aims to explain shared political intentions. Not only does it recall the most relevant rights in the context of the digital transformation, it should also serve as a reference point for businesses and other relevant actors when developing and deploying new technologies. The Declaration should also guide policy makers when reflecting on their vision of the digital transformation: putting people at the centre of the digital transformation; underlying solidarity and inclusion; restating the importance of freedom of choice; participation in the digital public space; safety, security and empowerment; and sustainability.

(6) The democratic oversight of the digital society and economy should be further strengthened, in full respect of the rule of law principles, effective justice and law enforcement. This Declaration does not affect lawful limits on the exercise of legal rights, in order to reconcile them with the exercise of other rights, or necessary and proportionate restrictions in the public interest. The Union should promote the Declaration in its relations with other international organisations and third countries with the ambition that the principles serve as an inspiration for international partners to guide a digital transformation which

puts people and their human rights at the centre throughout the world.

(7) This Declaration notably builds on primary EU law, in particular in the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU, as well as in secondary law. It also builds on and complements the European Pillar of Social Rights. It has a declaratory nature and does not as such affect the content of legal rules or their application.

(8) The promotion and implementation of the digital principles is a shared political commitment and responsibility of the Union and its Member States within their respective competences and in full compliance with Union law. The Commission has proposed that the annual report on the "State of the Digital Decade", to be submitted to the Parliament and Council, would cover the monitoring of the digital principles.

Chapter I: Putting people at the centre of the digital transformation

People are at the centre of the digital transformation in the European Union. Technology should serve and benefit all Europeans and empower them to pursue their aspirations, in full security and respect of their fundamental rights.

We commit to:

*   strengthening the democratic framework for a digital transformation that benefits everyone and improves the lives of all Europeans;

*   taking necessary measures to ensure that the values of the Union and the rights of individuals as recognised by Union law are respected online as well as offline;

*   fostering responsible and diligent action by all digital actors, public and private, for a safe and secure digital environment.

Chapter II: Solidarity and inclusion

Everyone should have access to technology that aims at uniting, and not dividing, people. The digital transformation should contribute to a fair society and economy in the Union.

We commit to:

*   making sure that technological solutions respect people's rights, enable their exercise and promote inclusion.

*   a digital transformation that leaves nobody behind. It should notably include elderly people, persons with disabilities, or marginalised, vulnerable or disenfranchised people and those who act on their behalf.

*   developing adequate frameworks so that all market actors benefiting from the digital transformation assume their social responsibilities and make a fair and proportionate contribution to the costs of public goods, services and infrastructures.

Connectivity: Everyone, everywhere in the EU, should have access to affordable and high-speed digital connectivity. We commit to:

*   ensuring access to excellent connectivity for everyone, wherever they live and whatever their income

*   protecting a neutral and open Internet where content, services, and applications are not unjustifiably blocked or degraded.

Digital education and skills: Everyone has the right to education, training and lifelong learning and should be able to acquire all basic and advanced digital skills. We commit to:

*   promoting and supporting efforts to equip all education and training institutions with digital connectivity, infrastructure and tools,

*   supporting efforts that allow learners and teachers to acquire and share all necessary digital skills and competences to take an active part in the economy, society, and in democratic processes.

*   giving everyone the possibility to adjust to changes brought by the digitalisation of work through up-skilling and re-skilling.

Working conditions: Everyone has the right to

fair, just, healthy and safe working conditions and appropriate protection in the digital environment as in the physical work place, regardless of their employment status, modality or duration. We commit to:

* ensuring that everyone shall be able to disconnect and benefit from safeguards for work-life balance in a digital environment.

Digital public services online: Everyone should have access to all key public services online across the Union. Nobody is to be asked to provide data more often than necessary when accessing and using digital public services. We commit to:

* ensuring that all Europeans are offered an accessible, secure and trusted digital identity that gives access to a broad range of online services,
* ensuring wide accessibility and re-use of government information.
* facilitating and supporting seamless, secure and interoperable access across the Union to digital health and care services, including health records, designed to meet people's needs.

Chapter III: Freedom of choice, algorithms and artificial intelligence systems

Everyone should be empowered to benefit from the advantages of artificial intelligence by making their own, informed choices in the digital environment, while being protected against risks and harm to one's health, safety and fundamental rights. We commit to:

* ensuring transparency about the use of algorithms and artificial intelligence, and that people are empowered and informed when interacting with them.
* ensuring that algorithmic systems are based on suitable datasets to avoid unlawful discrimination and enable human supervision of outcomes affecting people.
* ensuring that technologies, such as algorithms and artificial intelligence are not used to pre-determine people's choices, for ex-

ample regarding health, education, employment, and their private life.
* providing for safeguards to ensure that artificial intelligence and digital systems are safe and used in full respect of people's fundamental rights.

A fair online environment: Everyone should be able to effectively choose which online services to use, based on objective, transparent and reliable information. Everyone should have the possibility to compete fairly and innovate in the digital environment. We commit to:

* ensuring a safe, secure and fair online environment where fundamental rights are protected, and responsibilities of platforms, especially large players and gatekeepers, are well defined.

Chapter IV: Participation in the digital public space

Everyone should have access to a trustworthy, diverse and multilingual online environment. Access to diverse content contributes to a pluralistic public debate and should allow everyone to participate in democracy. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression in the online environment, without fear of being censored or intimidated. Everyone should have the means to know who owns or controls the media services they are using.

Very large online platforms should support free democratic debate online, given the role of their services in shaping public opinion and discourse. They should mitigate the risks stemming from the functioning and use of their services, including for disinformation campaigns and protect freedom of expression. We commit to:

* supporting the development and best use of digital technologies to stimulate citizen engagement and democratic participation.
* continuing safeguarding fundamental rights online, notably the freedom of expression and information.
* taking measures to tackle all forms of il-

legal content in proportion to the harm they can cause, and in full respect of the right to freedom of expression and information, and without establishing any general monitoring obligations.

* creating an online environment where people are protected against disinformation and other forms of harmful content.

Chapter V: Safety, security and empowerment. A protected, safe and secure online environment: Everyone should have access to digital technologies, products and services that are safe, secure, and privacy-protective by design. We commit to:

* protecting the interests of people, businesses and public institutions against cybercrime, including data breaches and cyberattacks. This includes protecting digital identity from identity theft or manipulation.

* countering and holding accountable those that seek to undermine security online and the integrity of the Europeans' online environment or that promote violence and hatred through digital means.

Privacy and individual control over data: Everyone has the right to the protection of their personal data online. That right includes the control on how the data are used and with whom they are shared.

* Everyone has the right to the confidentiality of their communications and the information on their electronic devices, and no one shall be subjected to unlawful online surveillance or interception measures.

* Everyone should be able to determine their digital legacy, and decide what happens with the publicly available information that concerns them, after their death. We commit to:

* ensuring the possibility to easily move personal data between different digital services.

Children and young people should be protected and empowered online: Children and young

people should be empowered to make safe and informed choices and express their creativity in the online environment. Age-appropriate materials should improve children's experiences, well-being and participation in the digital environment.

Children have the right to be protected from all crimes, committed via or facilitated through digital technologies. We commit to:

* promoting a positive, age-appropriate and safe digital environment for children and young people.

* providing opportunities to all children to acquire the necessary skills and competences to navigate the online environment actively, safely and make informed choices when online.

* protecting all children against harmful and illegal content, exploitation, manipulation and abuse online, and preventing the digital space from being used to commit or facilitate crimes.

Chapter VI: Sustainability

To avoid significant harm to the environment, and to promote a circular economy, digital products and services should be designed, produced, used, disposed of and recycled in a way that minimises their negative environmental and social impact.

Everyone should have access to accurate, easy-to-understand information on the environmental impact and energy consumption of digital products and services, allowing them to make responsible choices. We commit to:

* supporting the development and use of sustainable digital technologies that have minimal environmental and social impact.

* developing and deploying digital solutions with positive impact on the environment and climate. ∎

Notes
1. 2020/2216(INI).
2. 2020/2018(INL); 2020/2019(INL); 2020/2022(INI); 2020/2012(INL); 2020/2014(INL); 2020/2015(INI); 2020/2017(INI).

Una agenda de 20 puntos hacia un futuro digital justo y soberano

Internet Ciudadana

Ante el contexto de una digitalización acelerada que revoluciona el funcionamiento de nuestras sociedades y donde prima un modelo que responde principalmente a intereses corporativos, proponemos los siguientes puntos como principios para una arquitectura digital orientada al bien común. Se trata de garantizar derechos individuales y colectivos, promover estructuras democráticas, abiertas y desconcentradas de las tecnologías digitales, impedir toda forma de vigilancia y control social y fomentar la distribución equitativa de sus beneficios, la no discriminación, la descolonización y la soberanía.

Internet: un bien universal común inajenable

1. Promover el desarrollo de un sistema digital descentralizado, de poder distribuido y que transparente sus acciones, para que los usuarios puedan decidir de manera informada, voluntaria y autónoma sobre su desarrollo y usos.

El acceso a internet: un derecho humano y un servicio público esencial

2. Garantizar el acceso a la conectividad de calidad y asequible como un derecho humano, así como el derecho a permanecer no conectado, sin que esto sea motivo de discriminación.

3. Regular la infraestructura que garantiza la conectividad universal como un servicio público esencial, y fomentar las condiciones de conectividad a través de iniciativas públicas, comunitarias o de cogestión pública-comunitaria, incluyendo alternativas colectivas de acceso.

4. Asegurar, en casos de la instalación de infraestructura de conectividad, especialmente a gran escala, en las comunidades indígenas y/o rurales, que se respete su derecho al consentimiento libre, previo e informado, así como su derecho a negarse a tales instalaciones.

5. Garantizar un mínimo de conectividad 4G en todas las zonas, sin descuidar la realización de estudios de salud y medio ambiente independientes sobre posibles afectaciones de las redes 5G y otras fuentes de radiaciones. Asimismo, apoyar el desarrollo de infraestructuras autónomas, fomentando tecnologías que no requieren de un servidor central y permitiendo su interconexión abierta con redes centralizadas.

Nuestros datos son nuestros

6. Establecer estrictas regulaciones y políticas públicas a nivel nacional, regional e internacional para proteger de manera efectiva la privacidad. Fomentar el uso de la criptografía y la inhibición de técnicas de rastreo en los entornos digitales.

7. Instaurar marcos legales que reconozcan que los datos de carácter íntimo y personalizado son inviolables, que los datos anonimizados son considerados bienes comunes y que los derechos patrimoniales y económicos sobre los datos pertenecen por defecto a la comunidad de la que provienen.

8. Crear centros de datos a través del sector público, universidades públicas y/o entidades ciudadanas, que permitan mantener los datos en el territorio nacional y aplicar soluciones de inteligencia artificial (IA) que estimulen y beneficien la inteligencia colectiva local y regional.

9. Restringir legalmente el uso del reconocimiento facial y la biometría. Tanto las entidades públicas como privadas deben adoptar protocolos de seguridad en las comunicaciones, los objetos "inteligentes" e implementar dispositivos de seguridad avanzados en los servicios de almacenamiento en la nube.

Para más democracia, limitar el poder empresarial

10. Impulsar estrictas medidas regulatorias, aplicables mediante entes públicos autónomos, que impidan la concentración monopólica de poder en manos de las corporaciones digitales, en reemplazo de la engañosa e inocua autoregulación por parte de las mismas.

11. Defender y respetar la neutralidad de la red, garantizando que los contenidos sean tratados de la misma forma, sin discriminación explícita o encubierta en su circulación.

12. Obligar a las grandes empresas extranjeras a establecer presencia legal en el país donde brindan servicios digitales, así como conservar soberanía respecto al cobro de impuestos a estos servicios y soberanía regulatoria en materia de algoritmos, tratamiento de datos y seguridad informática.

13. Impedir la cooptación de los espacios multilaterales y de gobernanza de Internet por parte de las corporaciones tecnológicas multinacionales, a través del sistema vigente de "múltiples partes interesadas".

Tecnologías libres para sociedades libres

14. Priorizar en la administración pública la utilización de herramientas digitales libres e interoperables. Impulsar el desarrollo de cooperativas y pequeñas y medianas empresas de producción y servicios tecnológicos, aportando así a la generación de trabajo de calidad y a la disminución de la dependencia tecnológica.

15. Frente al abuso de las mal llamadas "redes sociales" corporativas, democratizar la comunicación a través de plataformas digitales descentralizadas, respetuosas con los usuarios y su privacidad e interoperables, cuyo fin sea promover un efectivo contacto entre las personas y las culturas.

16. Regular las nuevas relaciones laborales, en especial el teletrabajo y el trabajo en plataformas digitales, para salvaguardar los derechos de las y los trabajadores.

17. Insertar en los programas educativos la alfabetización digital crítica, educando para la soberanía y la autonomía y no para el consumo mercantil, lo que supone procesos de formación crítica de docentes. Asimismo, inhibir la penetración de plataformas corporativas en el ámbito educacional, garantizando el respeto por la privacidad y la no mercantilización de los datos de la comunidad educativa.

18. Asegurar que la tecnología llegue al campo según un modelo de gestión pública o comunitaria y construir capacidad de evaluación participativa de las tecnologías por parte de las comunidades rurales y/o campesinas, en defensa de la soberanía alimentaria, la justicia social y el cuidado agroecológico y medioambiental.

Hacia la soberanía digital de la región

19. Avanzar en la cooperación y la asociatividad de las naciones de América Latina y el Caribe en materia digital, para ir reemplazando la matriz económica de exportación primaria depredadora por modelos colaborativos con alto valor agregado y cuidado medioambiental.

20. Incorporar la soberanía digital en la agenda de la integración regional, avanzando hacia la descolonización y la desconcentración e incidiendo de manera concertada como región en el ámbito de la gobernanza global de internet. ∎

Este documento fue elaborado, luego de varios años de investigación, consultas y debates, por el espacio latinoamericano-caribeño Internet Ciudadana, una iniciativa en la que confluyen numerosas articulaciones y colectivos sociales, así como comunicadores, activistas digitales, académicos, campesinos, educadores para construir agendas comunes hacia una Internet de los pueblos al servicio del bien común.

Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) 2022

At the 56th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival July 1-9, 2022, the Ecumenical Jury, appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS, awarded its Prize to *A Provincial Hospital (Edna provintsialna bolnitsa)* directed by Ilian Metev, Ivan Chertov, Zlatina Teneva, (Germany, Bulgaria, 2022).

Motivation: A powerful documentary set at a provincial hospital in western Bulgaria during the time of the Covid-pandemic. In a very honest observation, the directors capture situational fragments depicting the full spectre of life. The jury appreciates how this film portrays the hospital staff's ability to share their presence and hope, as well as to fulfil their duties with unique strength and even humour, despite the obstacles given by the hospital's limitations and the suffering caused by the disease itself.

Members of the 2022 Jury: Annette Gjerde Hansen (Norway); Veronika Lišková (Czech Republic); Théo Péporté (Luxembourg).

Venice (Italy) 2022

At the 79th International Film Festival

Venice – Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica 2022 – the 11th INTERFILM Award for Promoting Interreligious Dialogue went to Darren Aronofsky's *The Whale* (still below).

In this film, a father is confined in his body, in his home and in his life. Seeking liberation, he is visited by characters who, while disgusted by his physical appearance, offer him different ways of surviving. The film powerfully portrays the fragility of human relationships and the possibility of forgiveness and salvation.

Members of the 2022 Jury: Alina Birzache (UK/Romania); Peter Ciacchio (Italy); Robert K. Johnston (USA); Jolyon Mitchell (President of the Jury, UK); Daria Pezzoli-Olgiati (Switzerland/Germany).

Locarno (Switzerland) 2022

At the 75th Locarno Film Festival (3-13 August 2022), the Ecumenical Jury of SIGNIS and INTERFILM awarded its Prize to the film *Tales of the Purple House* directed by Abbas Fahdel (Lebanon, Iraq, France, 2022).

The film gives us the personal and poetic perspective of an artist couple on the history and present day of a torn country. At the same time, it shows that everyday life goes on and that art and beauty play a part in it.

The jury awarded a Commendation to the film *Tengo sueños eléctricos* directed by Valentina Maurel (Belgium, France, Costa Rica, 2022).

The film follows the trajectory of a young teenager living in a family infused and shaken by break-ups and violence, but

also by love.

Members of the 2022 Ecumenical Jury: Anne Dagallier, France; Linde Fröhlich, Germany; Lukáš Jirsa, Czech Republic (President); Anne-Béatrice Schwab, Switzerland.

Miskolc (Hungary) 2022

At the 18th Cinefest Miskolc (September 9-17, 2022), the Ecumenical Jury, appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS, awarded its Prize to *Il buco* (The Hole) directed by Michelangelo Frammartino (Italy, France, Germany, 2021).

The Ecumenical Jury chose to award a film that invites the viewer to reflect on the passing of time and the various spheres of creation. Its contemplative pace, the originality of its cinematic language, the strength of its aesthetics and the absence of words convey a poetic atmosphere. The experience becomes spiritual, though the story is based on a historical event and set in a specific geographical area, recounting an old

shepherd's departure from this world and, in a parallel manner, a young group's exploration of the depths of the earth. The film empowers us to face our own fragility even as we long for eternity.

The members of the 2022 Jury: Susanne Birck, Germany; Inês Gil, Portugal; Zoltan Nevelős, Hungary; Kinga Szűcs, Hungary.

Leipzig (Germany) 2022

At the 65th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film (17-23 October 2022), the Interreligious Jury, appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS, awarded its Prize, to the film *Une vie comme une autre* (A Life Like Any Other) directed by Faustine Cros (Belgium, France, 2022).

Motivation: A Life Like Any Other is a soulful and subtle movie about feminism where intimacy never disturbs the message, where the eye and the heart of the daughter never dominates the vision of the director. The movie deconstructs with virtuosity the seeming idyll of a family, how it is presented to us in old family video footage, through old family films and photos and recent interviews. The director makes visible the often overseen and disturbing reality of traditional motherhood.

The members of the 2022 Jury: Karin Becker, Germany; Jihane Bougrine, Morocco; Jacques Chameaux, France (President of the Jury); Nicola Galliner, Germany. ∎