

Forum: Special Conference

Question of: Ensuring the Freedom and Independence of Press and Digital Media



Submitted by: Canada

Co-submitted by: Amnesty International, Cuba, Finland, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

1 The Special Conference,
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3 *Fully aware* of the dependence of freedom and the independence of press and digital media
4 on national laws which explicitly ensure these rights,
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6 *Emphasising* the importance of journalist's safety all around the world,
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8 *Taking* into consideration the everchanging situation of the internet,
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10 *Deeply concerned* by recent developments, such as the rise of journalist's imprisonments
11 and murders, as, according to CPJ, 607 journalists have been killed in the last ten years,
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13 *Realising* the effect of violence inflicted upon journalists has on self-censorship,
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15 *Noting* with regret the correlation between the political system, the welfare of a state and
16 each individual within that particular state and the freedom and independence of Press and
17 Digital Media,
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19 *Fully alarmed* by the fact that only 24 percent of 180 countries have been classified as "good"
20 or "fairly good" concerning the freedom of press,
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22 *Fully aware* of the new challenges the digital age entails,
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24 *Recalling* Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
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26 *Acknowledging* that journalism needs financial support, but concentrated ownership, bank-
27 ruptcy or unsustainable funding for public broadcasters, thus capital controls, can also be a
28 threat to journalistic independence,
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30 *Alarmed* by the decrease of trust in digital media by the public, as a result of governmental
31 propaganda,
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33 *Lastly keeping in mind*, the urgency of the situation,
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35 1. **Strongly urges** member states to educate society on the value of an independent
36 media and the situation of journalists worldwide, by:

37 a. accepting the offer for free workshops on the topic of unreliable sources and
38 how to deal with digital media, which:

39 i. will take place in schools,

40 ii. will be held by UN specialists and experts appointed by local govern-
41 ments,

42 b. training journalists on how to report and behave in critical areas,

43 c. supporting further educational programs related to this topic;

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2. **Further** requests all member states to support:
 - a. the judicative in the fight against corruption and bribery,
 - b. a relationship between NGOs and governments,
 - c. co-operations between governments specifically, such as the Freedom Online Coalition;
3. **Proposes** financial support by countries with a stable infrastructure in order to improve the infrastructure, especially for media outlets and services to countries which need it, by giving funds to local companies that work on projects related to the topic, the countries must fulfil the following criteria:
 - a. support the idea of an independent press and the freedom of speech,
 - b. implement national laws to improve the current situation of independent press and freedom of speech, which are given in this resolution,
 - c. act according to the declaration of human rights;
4. **Endorses** all nations to introduce legislative framework in the form of national laws or constitutions in addition to the UDHR to:
 - a. give media outlets a binding assurance of their freedom,
 - b. guarantee the safety, well-being and freedom of journalists,
 - c. ensure that the national laws also apply in the digital world;
5. **Strongly urges** any kind of media outlet to stay financially independent of:
 - a. governments or other political institutions,
 - b. any economic actors,
 - c. other interest groups that could potentially take influence;