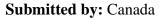
Forum: Special Conference

**Question of:** Ensuring the Freedom and Independence of Press and

Digital Media



**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

The Special Conference,

Fully aware of the dependence of freedom and the independence of press and digital media on national laws which explicitly ensure these rights,

Emphasising the importance of journalist's safety all around the world,

Taking into consideration the everchanging situation of the internet,

Deeply concerned by recent developments, such as the rise of journalist's imprisonments and murders, as, according to CPJ, 607 journalists have been killed in the last ten years,

Realising the effect of violence inflicted upon journalists has on self-censorship,

Noting with regret the correlation between the political system, the welfare of a state and each individual within that particular state and the freedom and independence of Press and Digital Media,

Fully alarmed by the fact that only 24 percent of 180 countries have been classified as "good" or "fairly good" concerning the freedom of press,

Fully aware of the new challenges the digital age entails,

Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Acknowledging that journalism needs financial support, but concentrated ownership, bankruptcy or unsustainable funding for public broadcasters, thus capital controls, can also be a threat to journalistic independence,

Alarmed by the decrease of trust in digital media by the public, as a result of governmental propaganda,

Lastly keeping in mind, the urgency of the situation,

- **1. Strongly urges** member states to educate society on the value of an independent media and the situation of journalists worldwide, by:
  - a. accepting the offer for free workshops on the topic of unreliable sources and how to deal with digital media, which:
    - i. will take place in schools,
    - ii. will be held by UN specialists and experts appointed by local governments,
  - b. training journalists on how to report and behave in critical areas,
  - c. supporting further educational programs related to this 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,

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c. other interest groups that could potentially take influence;