

Compendium of provisions and recommendations related to media or likely to limit media freedom

Declaration of Principles (DP) et Plan of Action (PA) (adopted in Geneva on 12 December, 2003)

1. Media's place in the information society (5 references)

- Recognition of the role of the media. (DP §19)
- Traditional media in all their forms have an important role in the information society. (DP §55)
- Encourage and promote joint use of traditional media and new technologies. (PA §9 1)
- The media - in their various forms and with a diversity of ownership - as an actor, have an essential role in the development of the Information Society. (PA §24)
- Encourage the media - print and broadcast as well as new media - to continue to play an important role in the Information Society. (PA §24 a)

2. Media freedom in cyberspace (14 references)

- As an essential foundation of the Information Society, and as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; that 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”. Communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and the foundation of all social organization. It is central to the Information Society. Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the Information Society offers. (DP §4)
- The ability for all to access and contribute information, ideas and knowledge is essential in an inclusive Information Society (DP §24)
- A global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international cooperation. Within this global culture of cyber-security, it is important to enhance security and to ensure the protection of data and privacy, while enhancing access and trade (DP §35)
- While recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, we support the activities of the United Nations to prevent the potential use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights. (DP §36)
- Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cyber-security should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels (DP §37)

- We reaffirm our commitment to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of media, which are essential to the Information (DP §55)
- Freedom to seek, receive, impart and use information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge are important to the Information Society. (DP §55)
- We call for the responsible use and treatment of information by the media in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards. (DP §55)
- As confidence and security are among the main pillars of the Information Society, it is necessary to promote cooperation among the governments at the United Nations and with all stakeholders at other appropriate fora to enhance user confidence, build trust, and protect both data and network integrity; consider existing and potential threats to ICTs; and address other information security and network security issues. (PA §12 a)
- Governments, in cooperation with the private sector, should prevent, detect and respond to cyber-crime and misuse of ICTs by developing guidelines that take into account ongoing efforts in these areas, considering legislation that allows for effective investigation and prosecution of misuse... (PA §12 b)
- Further strengthen the trust and security framework with complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives in the fields of security in the use of ICTs, with initiatives or guidelines with respect to rights to privacy, data and consumer protection. (PA §12 f)
- The media - in their various forms and with a diversity of ownership - as an actor, are recognized as an important contributor to freedom of expression and plurality of information. (PA §24)
- Encourage the development of domestic legislation that guarantees the independence and plurality of the media. (PA §24 b).
- Take appropriate measures - consistent with freedom of expression - to combat illegal and harmful content in media content. (PA §24 c).

3. Reducing international imbalances affecting the media (6 references)

- Necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media. (DP §55)
- To ensure that all of the world's population have access to television and radio services. (PA §6 h)
- Empower local communities, especially those in rural and underserved areas, in ICT use and promote the production of useful and socially meaningful content for the benefit of all. (PA §11 h)
- Design specific training programmes in the use of ICTs in order to meet the educational needs of journalists. Training of information professionals should focus not only on new methods and techniques for the development and provision of information and communication services, but also on relevant management skills to ensure the best use of technologies. (PA §11 k)
- Encourage media professionals in developed countries to establish partnerships and networks with the media in developing ones, especially in the field of training. (PA §24 d)

- Reduce international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills, taking full advantage of ICT tools in this regard. (PA §24 f).

4. Culture and media (10 references)

- Cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind. The Information Society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions, and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations. (DP §52)
- The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an inclusive Information Society, paying particular attention to the diversity of supply of creative work and due recognition of the rights of authors and artists. (DP §53)
- To encourage the development of content and to put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet. (PA §6 i)
- Cultural and linguistic diversity, while stimulating respect for cultural identity, traditions and religions, is essential to the development of an Information Society based on the dialogue among cultures and regional and international cooperation. It is an important factor for sustainable development. (PA §23)
- Create policies that support the respect, preservation, promotion and enhancement of cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage within the Information Society. (PA §23 a)
- Support local content development, translation and adaptation, digital archives, and diverse forms of digital and traditional media by local authorities. These activities can also strengthen local and indigenous communities. (PA §23 e)
- Provide content that is relevant to the cultures and languages of individuals in the Information Society, through access to traditional and digital media services. (PA §23 f)
- Give support to media based in local communities and support projects combining the use of traditional media and new technologies for their role in facilitating the use of local languages, for documenting and preserving local heritage, including landscape and biological diversity, and as a means to reach rural and isolated and nomadic communities. (PA 23 j)
- Enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples to develop content in their own languages. (PA 23 k)
- Encourage traditional media to bridge the knowledge divide and to facilitate the flow of cultural content, particularly in rural areas. (PA §24 g)

5. Women in the media (4 references)

- Development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. The Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis on equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. (DP §12)

- Governments, in collaboration with stakeholders, are encouraged to formulate conducive ICT policies that foster entrepreneurship, innovation and investment, and with particular reference to the promotion of participation by women. (PA §13 l)
- Strengthen programmes focused on gender-sensitive curricula in formal and non-formal education for all and enhancing communication and media literacy for women with a view to building the capacity of girls and women to understand and to develop ICT content. (PA §23 h)
- Promote balanced and diverse portrayals of women and men by the media. (PA §24 e)

6. Media ownership and frequency allocation questions (4 references)

- The radio frequency spectrum should be managed in the public interest and in accordance with principle of legality, with full observance of national laws and regulation as well as relevant international agreements. (DP §45)
- Diversity of media ownership should be encouraged, in conformity with national law, and taking into account relevant international conventions. (DP §55)
- ITU, pursuant to its treaty capacity, coordinates and allocates frequencies with the goal of facilitating ubiquitous and affordable access. (PA §13 q)
- Additional steps should be taken in ITU and other regional organisations to ensure rational, efficient and economical use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements. (PA §13 r)

7. Internet governance (5 references)

- The Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism. (DP §48)
- The management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect it is recognized that policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. The private sector and civil society, especially at community level, has had and should continue to have an important role on Internet matters. (DP §49)
- International Internet governance issues should be addressed in a coordinated manner. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested to set up a working group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005. The group should, inter alia:

- i) develop a working definition of Internet governance;
 - ii) identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance;
 - iii) develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing intergovernmental and international organisations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries;
 - iv) prepare a report on the results of this activity to be presented for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of WSIS in Tunis in 2005. (DP §50 + PA §13 b)
- To maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Information Society, governments need to create a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. (PA §13)
 - Governments need to formulate national strategies, which include e-government strategies, to make public administration more transparent, efficient and democratic. (PA §13 g)