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# DRAFT

# UN Plan of Action

# on The safety OF JOURNALISTS AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY

# Implementation REVIEW REPORT

# for the Period 2013-2014

#### SUMMARY

This current report reviews the 2013-2014 implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity with focus on the key achievements, challenges, lessons learnt, and recommendations for the way forward. Particular emphasis is placed on developments at the global level and on the specific countries selected for the first phase of implementation and on where elements of the UN Plan of Action are being implemented.

**PART I: OVERVIEW**

**Rationale of the UN Plan of Action**

1. The UN’s action in the area of the safety of journalists[[1]](#footnote-1) and the issue of impunity is based on the premise that all members of the UN family share a common interest in creating conditions conducive to journalistic safety. The rationale is that this safety is an important prerequisite for achieving freedom of expression, democracy, social development and peace – which are all central to UN bodies fulfilling their mandates.
2. The UN Plan is also based on the premise that the UN and other relevant actors also have a shared interest in adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to securing the safety of all those involved in generating journalism.
3. The **UN Plan of Action further** recognises the importance of a holistic approach and political will for securing safety. This is because the Plan perceives safety as a broad category that extends from preventive, protective and pre-emptive measures, through to combating impunity and promoting a social culture which cherishes freedom of expression and press freedom, with roles and responsibilities for the state primarily, but also for other actors. Notably, the Plan also acknowledges that safety spans both online and offline worlds, and that solutions require informed action at global, regional, national and local levels whilst at the same time responding to contextual specificities in each case. The Plan is also gender-sensitive. The 120 point **Implementation Strategy** reflect all these aspects of the UN Plan.

**Background**

1. The [UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-of-action/) is the result of a process that began in the deliberations of March 2010 with the 39 UNESCO Member States that serve on the Intergovernmental Council of the [International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/intergovernmental-programmes/ipdc/about-ipdc/intergovernmental-council/28th-session-of-ipdc-council/safety-of-journalists-and-the-danger-of-impunity/). They unanimously [requested the Director-General of UNESCO](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc2010_safety_decision_final.pdf) to consult with Member States on the feasibility of convening an inter-agency meeting of all the relevant UN agencies “with a view to formulating a comprehensive, coherent, and action-oriented approach to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.”
2. Consequently, [the first UN Inter-Agency Meeting](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/events/calendar-of-events/events-websites/inter-agency-meeting-on-the-safety-of-journalists-and-the-issue-of-impunity/) on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 13-14 September 2011. Representatives of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds met at UNESCO to draft an Action Plan. A [2nd UN Inter-Agency Meeting](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/2nd-un-inter-agency-meeting-on-the-safety-of-journalists-and-the-issue-of-impunity/) was held in Vienna, Austria, from 22 to 23 November 2012. The aim of the second meeting was to formulate a concrete [UN Implementation Strategy on The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/official_documents/Implementation_Strategy_2013-2014_01.pdf). The gestation of the UN Plan involved participation by governmental representatives of 37 UNESCO member states, 15 UN Agencies and more than 40 non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, independent experts, media groups and professional associations.
3. The UN Plan of Action aims toward the creation of a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide.
4. Concretely, the UN Plan of Action includes the establishment of a coordinated **inter-agency mechanism amongst UN agencies** to handle issues related to the safety of journalists, and the involvement of other **intergovernmental organizations at international and regional levels** to encourage the incorporation of journalists’ safety within their respective strategies. The Plan also entails the extension of work already conducted by UNESCO to prevent crimes against media workers including **awareness-raising and capacity building**. Furthermore, it proposes assistance to countries to **develop legislation and mechanisms** favourable to freedom of expression and information.
5. The UN Plan was endorsed on 12 April 2012 by the UN Chief Executives Board, the highest level coordination mechanism of the UN system. In addition, the Plan has also been highly welcomed by international and regional press freedom organizations. It has also been welcomed at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Human Rights Council, and the Council of Europe.
6. UNESCO has been tasked by the UNGA through Resolution A/RES/68/163 to be the overall coordinator of the UN Plan as well as to facilitate the implementation of the International Day to End Impunity in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders.
7. As part of that responsibility, UNESCO is co-convening the 3rd UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and The Issue of Impunity on 4 November 2014 in Strasbourg, France in conjunction with the inaugural observation of the Day. The 3rd UN Inter-Agency Meeting is taking place at the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France on 4 November 2014. UNESCO, OHCHR, and the Council of Europe are jointly co-hosting the event. This meeting reviews the first two years of implementation of the UN Plan of Action from 2013-2014, including the successes, challenges, lessons learnt as well as to discuss steps for the future implementation of the UN Plan of Action.

**Part II: Review of the UN Plan of Action**

**UN Plan of Action: Key Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learnt, and the Way Forward**

The Implementation Strategy of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity adopted during the 2nd Inter-Agency Meeting in Vienna, 2012, set out four sets of expected results:

1. To **UN coordination mechanisms are strengthened** and harmonised and current and new actions are put in place to increase the impact of work on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.
2. **Member States** are advised on the implementation of existing international standards at national level and on the development of journalists safety mechanisms, as well as supported in regard to the sharing of good practices and capacity-building among various actors, including the criminal justice chain, to promote a safe environment for journalists at national level
3. The work of **intergovernmental organizations outside the UN, and of other organizations** such as professional associations, media, academia and NGO, is reinforced and their work is harmonised within the UN Plan implementation
4. **State institutions, governments, media houses and other key stakeholders** have increased awareness of the importance of safety of journalists and combating impunity, and of ways to achieve these conditions.

**Strengthening UN Mechanisms**

**Expected Result 1**: **UN coordination mechanisms are strengthened and harmonised and current and new actions are put in place to increase the impact of work on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity**

**Key achievements**

1. Under this expected **result**, there are four expected **outcomes. Firstly,** the UN internal coordination mechanisms at international level are strengthened, harmonised and created, when relevant, taking into account each UN body’s mandate and differing contribution. **Secondly**, it was also expected that the normative work at the UN is reinforced. **Thirdly**, where appropriate, the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity are integrated within the planned activities of the UN system and the feasibility of creating new activities would be studied and put in place. **Fourthly**, as an outcome, the relevant issues would be included within UN national strategies and internal coordination mechanisms
2. The most significant achievements of this expected result have been in number (ii) – the reinforcement of the normative framework at the United Nations level. Landmark resolutions on safety of journalists have been approved and adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2012 and 2014 as well as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013. These documents are a testament to the growing recognition of the importance of ensuring the safety of journalists and the need to end impunity. They have also served as an important point of reference for regional institutions. Note: the achievements of UN rapporteurs is covered in Expected Result 3 below.

**Expected Outcome 1.1: UN internal coordination mechanisms at international level are strengthened, harmonised and created, when relevant, taking into account each UN body’s mandate and differing contribution (This section refers to Actions 1.1.1 to 1.1.7 of the Implementation Strategy)**

1. During the first and second UN Inter-Agency meetings which took place in Paris (2011) and Vienna (2012), the UN Agencies which participated in the meetings had dedicated a **focal point** on the issue of safety of journalists and of impunity. The list of the focal points is available in the annex of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014.
2. Furthermore, as part of the second Inter-Agency Meeting, a **mapping exercise** of existing body of work related to safety of journalists and the combating of impunity was conducted. The information provided by various governments and organizations, including over 40 NGOs, IGOs, and UN agencies, funds and programmes, helped inform the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014.
3. In terms of making relevant information available, UNESCO has created **a dedicated website** ([www.unesco.org/new/en/SafetyofJournalists](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/SafetyofJournalists)) serving as a **repository of information** concerning the safety of journalists and combatting impunity including upcoming events and meetings. Additionally UNESCO produces [**a bi-monthly newsletter**](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-of-action/newsletter/10th-un-plan-of-action-newsletter/) concerning the UN Plan of Action which is further disseminated through a network of 63 United Nations Information Centres (UNIC) as well as Peacekeeping and Political Missions by the United Nations Department of Public Information.
4. **Regular international and regional inter-agency meetings** on the issues are being organized. Between 2011 and 2014, three UN Inter-Agency Meetings (Paris in 2011, Vienna in 2012, and Strasbourg in 2014) had been variously co-organized by UNESCO, OHCHR, UNODC, UNDP and the Council of Europe.

**Expected Outcome 1.2: UN normative work on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity is reinforced (This section refers to Actions 1.2.1 to 1.2.13 of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

1. The **United Nations Human Rights Council** adopted by consensus the **Resolution** [**A/HRC/21/12**](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/a_hrc_res_21_12.pdf) **on the Safety of Journalists**, on 25 September 2012 during its 27th Session.The Human Rights Council condemned in the strongest terms all attacks and violence against journalists and expressed its concern that there was a growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors. It stressed the need to establish better cooperation and coordination at the international level to ensure the safety of journalists, and it invited UN agencies, programmes and funds, other international and regional organizations, UN Member States, and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate further in the implementation of the [UN Plan of Action on The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-of-action/). The Resolution A/HRC/21/12 was further strengthened by Resolution [A/HRC/27/L.7](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/27/L.7) adopted in the Human Rights Council on 25 September 2014 during its 27th Session which called on States to adopt concrete measures to combat impunity for attacks and violence against journalists.
2. On 18 December 2013, the **United Nations General Assembly** (UNGA), the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, adopted the landmark **Resolution A/RES/68/163** on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The Resolution calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently without undue interference, and invites stakeholders to identify focal points to exchange information on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action with UNESCO as the overall coordinator. It also proclaims 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.
3. Furthermore, the **General Assembly**, through Resolution A/RES/68/163 on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, requested the **Secretary-General to report**, at its 69th session, on the implementation of the resolution. The report, which was drafted by the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, gives an overview of recent trends with regard to the safety of journalists and media workers, as well as of initiatives undertaken to ensure their protection, and includes conclusions and recommendations. OHCHR based the report on information received from Member States following a note verbale issued on 14 March 2014 as well as on information gathered from public sources.
4. **UNESCO** has reinforced existing normative work and initiated further steps as well. These are informed by the adoption, by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 191st Session, of the UNESCO Work Plan on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity which further affirmed the Organization’s commitment to the issues especially with a focus on South-South cooperation. UNESCO’s 36th General Conference adopted Resolution 53 which mandated the Organization to monitor, in close cooperation with other United Nations bodies and other relevant organizations active in this field, the status of press freedom and safety of journalists, with emphasis on cases of impunity for violence against journalists, including monitoring the judicial follow-up through the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) as well as to report on the developments in these fields to the biannual General Conference. This led to UNESCO’s *World Trends on Freedom of Expression and Media Development Report,* which was published in 2014 and then launched in six cities worldwide. The report analyses the safety of journalists between 2007 and 2012.
5. Following **Resolution 29** of the 29th General Conference of UNESCO in 1997, the Director-General of UNESCO on an ongoing basis has engaged in regular public condemnation of each confirmed killing of a journalist, media worker, or social media producers of significant public interest journalism. In 2012, the Director-General condemned 123 cases of, in 2013 there were 91 condemnations, and as of October 2014, the Director-General condemned 70 cases. Each condemnation is issued as a press statement, and Governments in the affected country are requested to ensure judicial process into the killing.
6. UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Council of International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) adopted the **Decisions on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity at its 26th, 27th, and 28th sessions in 2008, 2010 and 2012** respectively. These Decisions urge Member States “to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify her/him of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO” and request the Director-General to provide an analytical report on the basis of her/his condemnations and the responses received from Member States concerned. Most recently, the analysis of the killings of journalists which took place between 2006-2013 including the status of the judicial inquiry is compiled in the 4th biennial [UNESCO Director-General’s Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/intergovernmental-programmes/ipdc/ipdc/29th-session-of-ipdc-council/) to be presented to the Intergovernmental Council meeting of the IPDC on 20-21 November 2014.
7. UNESCO Member States recognized online safety issues in their Resolution 52 adopted at the UNESCO’s 37th General Conference Resolution in November 2013. which affirmed the relevance of human rights online, and highlighted the importance of confidentiality of journalists’ sources.
8. Progress in reinforcing global norms is also evident in the [tenth Report of the Secretary-General](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2013_689.pdf) as issued to the Security Council on 22 November 2013 on the “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict”. This continues to highlight the safety of journalists where the UN Secretary General welcomed the attention on the issue and took note of the open debate on the safety of journalists at the UN which took place in July 2013.
9. Furthermore, as recommended by the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014, existing international standards including the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the additional Protocols, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the General Comments of the Human Rights Committee, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, along with the newer normative instruments including the UNGA Resolution and Human Rights Council Resolutions on Safety of Journalists are available as the “Basic Texts” on the UNESCO’s dedicated page on safety of journalists issues[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Expected Outcome 1.3: The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity are integrated within the UN-system planned activities and the feasibility of creating new activities is studied and, where appropriate, put in place. (This section refers to Actions 1.3.1 to 1.3.10 in the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014. Note: many of the achievements below also contribute to other Expected Outcomes such as those concerning normative work and awareness-raising)**

1. The safety of journalists has been strongly integrated into worldwide events including **World Radio Day** on 13 February, **World Press Freedom Day** on 3 May and the **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** on 2 November. In particular, this integration has been strong in UNESCO’s global World Press Freedom Day conference each year. These events bring together journalists, editors, experts, academics, students, representatives of international and regional organizations and civil society, UN Agencies, and Member States, and help to set the global thematic for other events around the Day. In 2013, the World Press Freedom Day conference, held in San José, Costa Rica, was focused on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and led to the adoption of the San José Declaration “Safe to speak: securing freedom of expression in all media”. In 2014, the conference took place in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, with the global theme “Media freedom for a better future: shaping the post-2015 development agenda” and a subtheme entitled “Rule of law to ensure safety of journalists and combating impunity”. Globally, there are around 100 celebrations taking place each year. World Press Freedom Day is also increasingly present in social media, including on one occasion via a partnership with Twitter. In 2013 and 2014, the hashtag #pressfreedom has been a trending topic on 3 May. UNESCO has also continued to award the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, honouring a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom.
2. Various projects promoting the safety of journalists are implemented by **UNESCO** through regular or core funding as well as through extra-budgetary funding. The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) 58th Bureau Meeting took place 20-21 March 2014 at UNESCO. The Bureau approved 80 projects, including 13 related to journalists’ safety and the UN Plan of Action coming from Liberia, Nigeria, Bamako, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Sudan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia and the regions of Central Asia and Central America. The IPDC, the only forum in the UN system designed to mobilize the international community to promote media development, provides small grants to media projects in developing countries. Another integration of safety into the IPDC activities, has been the production of a research instrument on the topic. Under the framework of IPDC’s Media Development Indicators, and through a consultative process, UNESCO in 2013 developed specialized Journalists’ Safety Indicators for application at national and at international levels.
3. The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),** at the request of the **Human Rights Council** (resolution 21/12), prepared, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, a compilation of good practices in the protection of journalists, the prevention of attacks committed against journalists and the fight against impunity for such attacks. OHCHR presented the report to the Human Rights Council in September 2013, at its 24th session (A/HRC/24/23). Based on inputs received from States, the report formulates good practices in four areas: political commitment; legislative framework; combating impunity; and protection.
4. The **25th Session** of **Human Rights Council** 11 March 2014 saw a panel discussion addressing the issue of the protection and promotion of civil society space[[3]](#footnote-3). Based on resolution A/HRC/24/21, entitled “Civil society space: creating and maintaining, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment,” this was the first formal discussion on the issue of civil society space as a human rights concern. The issues of surveillance which encroaching on journalistic privacy, and attacks against the media, bloggers and journalists, were among the issues discussed. Furthermore, in its resolution 25/38 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests (adopted in the 25th Session), the Human Rights Council called upon all States to pay particular attention to the safety of journalists and media workers covering peaceful protests, taking into account their specific role, exposure and vulnerability. It recognized the important role played by journalists and other media workers in documenting human rights violations or abuses committed in the context of peaceful protests.
5. Following the report presented at its 24th session (A/HRC/24/23), the **Human Rights Council** decided to convene, at its **26th session,** a panel discussion on the issue of the safety of journalists, with a particular focus on the findings of the report, identifying challenges and further developing good practices for ensuring the safety of journalists by sharing information on initiatives undertaken to protect them. The panel, organized by OHCHR, was held on 11 June 2014; panelists included the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and representatives of the media and civil society. OHCHR presented a summary report of the panel discussion to the Human Rights Council at its 27th session (A/HRC/27/35).
6. The issue of safety of journalists and impunity has often been addressed in the Universal Periodical Review (UPR). The UPR is a process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States and is part of the Human Rights Council. The full list of countries and the respective reports can be accessed from the OHCHR website[[4]](#footnote-4).
7. In July 2013, the **United Nations Security Council** held an open debate on the protection of journalists in armed conflict, during which its Deputy Secretary-General stressed that the Security Council could play an important role by reacting to, and standing up against, the suppression of media freedom wherever and whenever it occurs. He emphasized that protecting free media is a prerequisite for freedom of expression and democracy, and relevant for the pursuit of peace and security, as well as development.
8. In December 2013, the **Security Council** also discussed the protection of journalists under the Arria-formula. Previously, in 2006, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1738, in which it condemned attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict, recalling that such persons shall be considered civilians and thus respected and protected as such.
9. Following a specific item in the UN Plan’s Implementation Strategy, the issue of the right to freedom of expression, including press freedom and the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity has been advocated as one of the Targets to be included in the **post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**. This was done through the World Press Freedom Day conference and Paris Declaration on 3 May 2014. This argument was reiterated at the **Global Media Forum** co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Indonesia which took place in Bali, Indonesia from 25-28 August 2014. The Paris Declaration and the Bali Declaration were subsequently forwarded to the UN Secretary General. The need to address impunity as a contributing link to development was also highlighted by UNESCO at a side-event of the **27th Session of the Human Rights Council** meeting on 17 September 2014 organized by the NGO Article 19.
10. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** produced the publication **Media and Elections: A Guide for Electoral Practitioners** which is designed as a key reference tool for electoral practitioners including electoral management bodies, independent broadcasting authorities and international assistance providers. This has relevance to the safety of journalists as elections are often a time of heightened tensions and conflict. The guide is comprised of ten chapters that include the issues of media and communications during the electoral process.
11. The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)** published **Reporting on Corruption: A Resource Tool for Governments and Journalists** (2014) which provides examples of investigative reporting on corruption and highlights legal frameworks and good government practices that could serve as sources of inspiration or models. The tool touches on measures to protect anonymity of sources, creating an ethical environment through self-regulation, and the physical safety of journalists amongst other issues.
12. Furthermore, **UNODC** also published the **Global Study on Homicide 2013** which seeks to understand the underlying patterns and trends related to different forms, settings and risk factors of homicide at the global, regional, and national levels. The global study includes a section dedicated to the killing of journalists and contains information on the number of journalists killed in the line of duty, the topics covered by journalists killed, number of journalists who are victims of homicide perpetrated by organized criminal groups.

**Expected Outcome 1.4: The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity are included within UN national strategies and internal coordination mechanisms (This section refers to Actions 1.4.1 to 1.4.7 of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014).**

1. During the 2nd UN Inter-Agency Meeting in 2012, four countries were selected as part of the first phase of the implementation of the Plan. They were Iraq, Pakistan, Nepal, and South Sudan. As the implementation progressed, elements of the Plan have also informed actions in Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Myanmar, and Tunisia. The progress of the four countries selected for the first phase of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action (Iraq, Pakistan, Nepal, and South Sudan) is listed in this section. In several cases, the information provided below goes wider than purely UN actors, and reflects the important role of other actors (national and international) who have contributed to an integrated momentum for the UN Plan in these four countries. Other countries have had elements of integration of the UN Plan integrated into wider UN include **Jordan,** where the establishment of self-regulatory mechanism such as an independent media complaint mechanism as part of a systematic media reform has been included in the revised UNDAF in 2014.

***Iraq***

1. In **Iraq,** the combination of the deterioration of the security situation, the fragmented media landscape, political instability and the lack of resources has caused challenges to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. Nevertheless, an assessment of the needs for moving forward with the implementation of the Plan was undertaken by UNESCO through consultations with some 30 representatives of main stakeholders conducted from 13 to 17 December 2013 in Erbil. The dialogues included discussion on the agenda and format of a potential conference that, according to all interlocutors, should be held in advance of the parliamentarian elections of 30 April 2014 to develop elements for a roadmap to increasing the safety of journalists in Iraq within the framework of the UN Plan of Action. An attempt to organize the event end of March 2014 failed because of disagreement between the parties on the place of the conference and on funding. At the same time, within the framework of the UN Plan of Action, International Media Support (IMS) has established dialogue with key authorities and police to ensure journalists through a joint code of conduct and strengthened mutual understanding of the rights and responsibilities of journalists and police. Similar dialogue was conducted in the Kurdistan region.
2. After the formation of the new Iraqi Government in September 2014 UNESCO has started to invigorate cooperation with officials of the new government, Human Rights actors and representatives of professional associations. Currently UNESCO is preparing cooperation agreements with the Ministry of Human Rights, the High Commission for Human Rights and the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate. The aims of the agreements are to contribute to the development of the communication and media sector and promote freedom of expression in accordance with internationally recognized standards in general, and to improve the safety of journalists and promote conflict sensitive reporting, in particular. It is expected that concrete initiatives to be planned and implemented under the umbrella of the agreements will contribute to mitigating the impact of the severe crisis in Iraq by fostering the role of media and freedom of expression within the framework of the UN Plan of Action.
3. It is noteworthy in this context, that Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi decided in October 2014 to form a committee with members from the Ministry of Finance and the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate to accelerate the process of paying monthly salaries for the members of the families of assassinated journalists and media workers in accordance with the 2011 Journalists’ Rights Law No. 21.

***Pakistan***

1. **In Pakistan**, a national consultative meeting took place in June 2012 which produced a draft *National Plan of Action on Safety of Pakistani Journalists and Media* as well as the Islamabad Declaration that called for the protection of journalists and media workers. This was followed up by an *International Conference on Safety and Security of Journalists in Pakistan* in early March 2013, to create a formal alliance for taking forward action. In June 2013, funding was raised from the Norwegian Refugee Council, to provide human resource to UNESCO to support the UN Plan in Pakistan for one year.
2. The UN Plan of Action in Pakistan was officially launched at the conference in March 2013. The **Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety (PCOMS)** was subsequently created in Islamabad by a broad-based alliance of relevant stakeholders including representative associations of media workers, working journalists, media development organizations, human rights organizations, civil society groups, parliamentarians and the government. In October 2013, a **Steering Committee** was established which included the Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Pervaiz Rasheed and Federal Interior Minister Nisar Ali. The PCOMS has developed a national roadmap for the stakeholders on media safety and combating impunity.
3. In the same month, **a special session of the UN Country Team (UNCT)** was convened, during which the UN Plan was presented. A Human Rights Task Force was established under the UNCT. The Task Force assigned a Special Task Force on the UN Plan of Action to be constituted and led by UNESCO. The UN Resident Coordinator of the Heads of Agencies expressed full support to the UN Plan Action.
4. **In the framework of** the One UN Programme Phase II (OP II, Special Priority Area 4) on governance, there is has a focus on human rights, which covers safety of journalists. Recommendations of the National Consultation on UN Plan of Action are part of an annex of the most recent Common Country Assessment (CCA)/ **UN Development Assistance Framework** (**UNDAF).**
5. Adding to the momentum of the UN Plan, Pakistan’s **Ministry of Information Broadcasting and National Heritage** created a special unit in its Press Information Department to monitor threats against media professionals and to take concrete steps to counter such threats. A special fund with an endowment has been established at Ministry level as part of the awareness-raising efforts of the UN Plan. UNESCO Islamabad is working with stakeholders towards a series of policy dialogues to draft a model law on journalist’s safety at provincial as well as federal level which could assist in developing appropriate national policies, and institutional frameworks to increase journalists’ safety in Pakistan. UNESCO has shared international experiences on such laws with stakeholders in Pakistan.
6. In April 2014, the **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif,** after meeting the **Committee to Protect Journalists,** announced that a **Media Commission** will be created to guarantee the safety of Pakistani journalists. This Media Commission, consisting of both media workers and government officials, will set out measures to protect journalists in the field as well as to give recommendations on effectively monitoring the prosecution of crimes against media workers. Pakistan is also one of the first countries to be piloting UNESCO’s **Journalists’ Safety Indicators (JSI)** in 2014, with this research instrument serving to lay out a baseline against which changes related to the UN Plan can be assessed.
7. In the pipeline, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and **UNESCO** are collaborating on a two-year project that contributes towards the safety and security of journalists. This is through addressing specific labour rights issues and strengthening the Government’s capacities. It also includes efforts to improve coverage and implementation of labour standards in media sector (especially focusing on rural media workers and journalists) by reviewing relevant legislation, policies and strategies for adoption and implementation of labour and employment policies, to deal with labour rights and inequalities.

***Nepal***

1. **In Nepal,** UNESCO has secured additional funding (USD 566,000) from the UN Peace Fund to support the project “Increasing the security of journalists” which is being implemented from 2013-2015. The project aims at improving the security situation of journalists and media professionals in Nepal on three different levels. First, extensive discussions among district and regional level judicial structures have taken place **in Nepal** to heighten awareness on cases involving journalists. There is an agreement to establish a nationally-owned mechanism to monitor safety of journalists under the leadership of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** with **Nepali Police and Ministry of Information and Communications**. Second, national political stakeholders and the public at large are being sensitized to the importance of security of journalists for freedom of the media and subsequently Nepal’s peace and development process. Lastly, the local security forces and judiciary bodies, as well as male and female journalists, are being trained on how to handle cases of threats towards journalists and individual security strategies, respectively.
2. **In Nepal**, activities concerning safety of journalists have been integrated in the country **UN Development Assistance Framework** (**UNDAF)** document.

***South Sudan***

1. In **South Sudan**, **UNESCO** supported the establishment of the **Media Monitoring Committees** in all the 10 states under the **Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS)**. Twenty media monitors from the different states received training in Juba from 3 to 6 June 2014 focusing on monitoring and documenting press freedom violations. This training was organized by UJOSS and supported by UNESCO, UNMISS and **International Media Support (IMS).** Trainers were drawn from the Media Council of Kenya, a regulatory body that has successfully established structures for monitoring, documenting and reporting media violations in Kenya. UNESCO has also capacitated the media monitoring committees with monitoring and reporting tools including phones, reporting lines, computers and recording diaries. To ensure coherence on the incidents reported, UNESCO has been facilitating bi-weekly consultations between these media monitoring committees’ secretariat (UJOSS) and international NGOs whose mandate also includes monitoring and reporting cases that affect safety of journalists.
2. UNESCO also supported the drafting of three media bills that were endorsed in July 2013 by members of the National Legislative in **South Sudan**. Thereafter, UNESCO was active in advocating for the media bills to be signed into law, and the President assented to the bills on 8 August 2014. Implementation of the new media laws through establishment of institutions will provide a legal framework for protecting of the journalists.
3. Further in South Sudan**,** UNESCO established an online discussion platform through the establishment of a list-serve and mailing list (mswg@lists.mswgsouthsudan.org) which enables all the media partners and stakeholders to discuss thematic topics. As a result, there has been increased coordination and collaboration by carrying out joint initiatives such as co-funding of the media monitors training with the International Media Support as well as co-funding for World Press Freedom Day’s celebration with various partners such as the **Norwegian People’s Aid** and **Internews**. The activities supporting the safety of journalists are also well harmonised under the **Thematic working Group on Safety of Journalists and Issues of Impunity** which is convened by UNESCO with the support of a secondee from the Norwegian Refugee Council.
4. **In South Sudan,** activities focusing on implementation of the UN Plan of Action have been integrated in the country’s **UN Development Assistance Framework** (**UNDAF) document** as well as in most reports from the **UN Country Team** that are prepared for the UN Security Council.

**Challenges and lessons learnt**

1. Despite some progress of integrating safety of journalists and issue of impunity in the activities of various UN agencies, funds, and programmes, the integration or mainstreaming of the issues within the existing mandate of various UN bodies remains low.
2. The UN Plan of Action is based on a multi-stakeholder approach with the aim to coalesce the various UN agencies around the issue of safety and the question of impunity. However, for the issue of safety of journalists and impunity to be mainstreamed into the activities of the various UN agencies, it must be better connected to their respective mandates.
3. The implementation of the UN Plan of Action coincides with the severe reduction of UNESCO regular budget which in turn has reduced the human resources at the country level. This has reduced the ability UNESCO as the leading UN agency on the UN Plan of Action to optimise its contribution to UN national strategies and internal coordination mechanisms at the country level.
4. In Nepal, the retirement of NHRC commissioners and the delay in identifying their successors pose a big challenge towards achieving the goal of establishing a nationally-owned mechanism envisioned by the safety of journalists project in the country.
5. In South Sudan, the political crisis in December 2013 and following conflict affected many implementing partners’ activities that had been planned under the South Sudan Country Plan of Action for Safety of Journalists. Some partners re-focused their activities to humanitarian support only, while others halted their activities. UNMISS who are implementing partners of the Country Plan Action for Safety of Journalists have also seen their mandate changed with the new SCR 2155.

**Recommendations:**

1. Mainstreaming of the safety of journalistic and impunity in the diverse work of each UN agencies could be better achieved with better sharing of good practices and toolkits, and awareness of reporting on achievements regarding the UN Plan.
2. To mainstream the safety of journalists into the work of respective UN Agencies, there should be more collaborative work in overlapping areas. UN Agencies need to be more proactive in reaching out to their counterparts. There is also room for improvement through systematising the sharing of information between UNESCO field offices and HQ on matters related to the UN Plan.
3. In Nepal, one of the lessons learnt has been that sufficiently large stakeholder discussions need to take place to select implementing partners. For example, it was important to engage stakeholders with extended national presence (beyond the capital city) in order to have impact beyond the selected districts. With this realization the project has now partnered with six more human rights and local media advocacy groups.
4. In South Sudan, different actions are needed following the humanitarian crisis in the country as well as the increased level of incidents affecting safety of journalists. Given that the country’s Plan of Action that had been put in place with several concrete activities which were meant to be implemented by different partners, revisions may be needed. It is important that the scale of intervention be increased, and the period of the implementation of the activities that had been foreseen under the country plan of action be extended. This is necessary in order to ensure that the safety of journalists issue will continued to be addressed in the long term in the country.

**Cooperating with Member States**

**Expected Result 2**: **Member States are advised on the implementation of existing international standards at national level and on the development of journalist safety mechanisms, as well as supported in regard to the sharing of good practices and capacity-building among various actors, including the criminal justice chain, to promote a safe environment for journalists at national level.**

**Key Achievements**

1. Under this expected **result**, there are three expected **outcomes.** These are, **firstly,** Member States are assisted to implement existing international standards and to share good practices. **Secondly**, Member States are assisted to develop national legislation and mechanisms guaranteeing freedom of expression and press freedom, particularly regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. **Thirdly**, national and local public institutions’ capacities are strengthened in relevant areas
2. The key achievement in this area is the increased awareness of the Member States in the importance of the issue of safety of journalists and the need to end impunity, shown for example in the number of countries providing support for resolutions in UN fora. There is also a heightened awareness of the existence of international instruments dealing with the safety of journalists. Several national leaders have openly expressed support to the UN Plan of Action. Elements of the UN Plan have informed the actions of authorities in Brazil, Cambodia, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Tunisia.

**Expected Outcome 2.1: Member States are assisted to implement existing international standards and to share good practices (This section refers to Actions 2.1.1 to 2.1.5 in the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

1. As indicated above, at the request of the **Human Rights Council** in accordance with Resolution A/HRC/21/12, OHCHR prepared, in collaboration with the **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression**, a compilation of good practices in the protection of journalists, the prevention of attacks committed against journalists and the fight against impunity for such attacks. Member States provided information in the preparation of the publication. The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** presented the report to the Human Rights Council in September 2013, at its 24th session. The issues of safety of journalists have also been highlighted in different occasions involving Member States including the 26th and 27th Session of the Human Rights Council meetings.
2. The **Journalists’ Safety Indicators (JSI)** are an independent research tool for use by Member States and other actors, which has been developed by UNESCO to address the gaps in systematically collecting information and providing a baseline against which it is possible to track changes relevant to the UN Plan. Based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators’ methodology, the JSI provides indicators relevant to the actions of the authorities as well as other actors. The JSI has been pilot-tested in **Pakistan, Honduras and Guatemala,** with implementation being done by independent local or regionally based research organizations. A number of other countries have also expressed interest in the indicators.
3. **UNESCO Director-General’s Fourth Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity** will be presented to the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC on 20-21 November 2014. It incorporates the information submitted by 61 Member States where there are still unresolved killings of journalists, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify the Director-General of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned. The report provides valuable information for Member States and other actors, and it will be discussed in the upcoming session of the 59-member IPDC Council. (The report also indicates the countries where information has not been received by UNESCO over the period).
4. Similarly, Member States often address concerns regarding the safety of journalists and of impunity as part of the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** process. The UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the **Human Rights Council**, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

**Expected Outcomes 2.2: Member States are assisted to develop national legislation and mechanisms guaranteeing freedom of expression and press freedom, particularly regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and Expected Outcome 2.3: National and local public institutions’ capacities are strengthened in relevant areas. (This section refers to Action 2.2.1 to 2.3.5 of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

***Africa region***

1. In **Nigeria,** UNESCO has launched with the support of European Union a project to monitor the safety of journalists during the electoral period in cooperation with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (USD 300,000). The project will include training workshops at the level of the six geo-political zones and two national workshops on safety issues. A journalist’s safety code will also be developed and distributed around the country. This initiative contributes to the government’s interest in a transparent and incident-free election.

***Arab States region***

1. In **Jordan,** **UNESCO** secured funding in 2014 from the European Union (3 million Euros) for the implementation of a three-year project to support the media reform process in the country. The project will focus on the media sector in Jordan as a platform for democratic dialogue and a crucial instrument to transparency and accountability in a democratic society. Its primary objective is to strengthen an enabling regulatory and institutional environment and to build the capacity for an independent, quality based media sector serving the entire population. One priority area of the project is media regulation and independence, which will include capacity building activities and procedures for media to acquire broadcast licenses independently, and the design and establishment of an independent media complaints council with a code of honour and conduct. In this way, the authorities will be supported to create an environment for the safe exercise of journalism is being promoted.
2. Furthermore, **UNESCO** is enhancing legal support to media **in Jordan** with the long-term goal to establish a network of lawyers specialized in defending journalists, bloggers and other media professional, in addition to citizen journalists and activists. The project also includes workshops for **judges**, namely the “Future Judges” initiative introduced by the judicial system in Jordan. The workshops will aim at sensitizing participants about international standards and conventions on freedom of expression and the press.
3. In **Tunisia,** **UNESCO** has implemented a project of training of security forces on freedom of expression, freedom of press and safety of journalists (USD 450,000) in cooperation with the **Tunisian Ministry of Interior**. The project included training-of-trainers, and a series of training sessions in the regions of Tunisia aimed at sensitizing security force officers on the issues of human rights, freedom of expression and safety of journalists. Four six-day training sessions have taken place in the cities of Gafsa, Sbeïtla, Bizerte and Sidi Bouzid during June and July 2013. Two days were dedicated to joint sessions for members of security forces and journalists working in these governorates. In total, 90 officers from the police, **the National Guard and the Emergency Preparedness,** as well as about 30 journalists will attend the training in 2013. In this framework, six awareness days were facilitated by a commander from the **Canadian police**, covering more than 700 cadets and officers of the Ministry of Interior in the training centers and schools of intervention units in Tunis and in the regions (Kairouan, Bizerte, Hammamet, Sousse). Additional training sessions are planned.
4. Also, the **OHCHR/United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region** implemented four training programmes for journalists from the region, in which the issue of safety of journalists featured prominently. The programmes took place in **Lebanon** (2011), **Libya** (2012), **Yemen** (2013) and **Morocco** (2014). The training is conducted together with UNESCO, the Human Rights Department at Al-Jazeera and the Doha Centre for Media Freedom.

***Latin America and the Caribbean region***

1. In **Brazil,** UNESCO is working with the Brazilian Judiciary Power to promote debate on freedom of expression. The **Brazilian Supreme Court**, the **United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression** set up a partnership for an in-depth debate on the right to freedom of expression under the Brazilian Judiciary System. This high-profile joint effort intends to offer judges throughout Brazil a concrete space to discuss issues related to the promotion and protection of freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of information, taking into account the international debate towards these topics. The initiative gives particular attention to the safety of journalists and the fight against impunity, recognizing the centrality of the Judiciary in coping with these urgent and complex challenges. Among the activities planned and organized are an international dialogue about these issues and the creation of online courses for judges who are interested in increasing their expertise in these areas.
2. **UNESCO and the Knight Center of University of Texas Austin** is collaborating, with the former UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and former Special Rapporteur of the Organization of American States, on a massive open online course (mooc) on freedom of expression including safety of journalists targeting with the **Supreme Court of Mexico** but scalable to the rest of the Latin America region. This is the result of a grant by UNESCO’s IPDC.
3. In **Guatemala,** **President Otto Perez Molina**, made a public announcement on 28 November 2013, stating that a protection mechanism for journalists will be established in the country on the basis of the UN Plan of Action. The Journalists’ Safety Indicator research tool is being piloting in Guatemala as well as **Honduras.**

**Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

1. Governments have not only a duty but also an interest in securing the safety of journalists and ending impunity. Consequently in many cases there is potential political will amongst national authorities to take advantage of the opportunities of the UN Plan. This can include building capacity amongst their agencies of the rule of law.
2. One of the lessons learnt is that in developing a convivial environment for the safety of journalists, it is valuable to have activities to tackle access to information and regulatory reform which can support the role of Member States in creating a broader environment for the safe exercise of journalism.
3. Freedom of expression, freedom of information and other media legislation needs to be aligned to international standards for an environment that is conducive to safety.
4. Human resource remains a great challenge in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. In several instances, due to the financial constraints UNESCO has limited personnel on the ground to engage with Member States.
5. Instability of the political situation is also affecting the ability to implement the Plan. For example in South Sudan, several months of civil unrest suspended implementation, and the situation in Iraq has made progress very difficult.

**Recommendations**

1. Encourage the Member States to develop and implement strategies which ensure appropriate media law and regulation in line with international standards, and to provide capacity building to enable the full investigation and prosecution of crimes against journalists. Member States can specifically be alerted to the potential of establishing a special prosecutor or independent commission, and training of the judiciary and the security forces regarding the safety of journalists.
2. Encourage the Member States to publicly condemn attacks on journalists and to initiate swift and thorough judicial investigations into these crimes.
3. Encourage the Member States to actively provide information concerning the judicial investigations of killings of journalists to UNESCO as part of the Director-General’s Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

**Partnering with Other Organizations and Institutions**

**Expected Result 3**: **Other intergovernmental organizations and other organizations such as professional associations, media, academia and NGOs are reinforced and their work is harmonised with the UN Plan implementation**

**Key Achievements**

1. In this expected result, the work of regional intergovernmental organizations is reinforced and also harmonised with the UN system at regional level. Furthermore, the work of international non-governmental organizations, professional organizations and media is expected to be reinforced and harmonised, where appropriate, with relevant UN system actions at international level, and at national level with national actors and relevant actions of the UN system at country level.
2. A significant achievement is the inclusion of UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity specifically and the safety of journalists into important regional normative instruments. This is reflected in the April 2014 Declaration of the Council of Europe as well as in the Guidelines published by the European Union in May 2014. International organizations including non-governmental organizations have embraced the UN Plan of Action and included it in their work in promoting press freedom, safety of journalists and ending impunity.

**Expected Outcome 3.1: The work of regional intergovernmental organizations[[5]](#footnote-5) is reinforced and also harmonised with the UN system at regional level (This section refers to Actions 3.1.1 to 3.1.13 in the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

1. The **Council of the European Union** adopted the [EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline](http://www.unesco.org/new/typo3/backend.phphttp%3A/eeas.europa.eu/delegations/documents/eu_human_rights_guidelines_on_freedom_of_expression_online_and_offline_en.pdf) on 12 May 2014, calling on the States to implement the UN Plan of Action.
2. The **Council of Europe Conference of Ministers** responsible for media and information society in November 2013 in Belgrade adopted a Resolution on the Safety of Journalists. This was followed by the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers adopting the [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists and Other Media Actors](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Decl%2830.04.2014%292&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383) on 30 April 2014. Both documents express their support for the UN Plan of Action and encourage further implementation.
3. The **Council of Europe** hosted a round table entitled “Safety of journalists – from commitment to action” on 19 May 2014 in Strasbourg. The round table mapped out the role of Council of Europe bodies to enhance media freedom and the protection of journalists, encouraging dialogue between international institutions and media freedom organizations. The Council of Europe aimed to find methods to better address human rights violations against media workers. This round table was part of the operational proposals of the Council of Europe’s Secretary-General for the creation of an Internet-based platform to facilitate compiling, processing and dissemination of information on serious concerns about media freedom and safety of journalists. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts on protection of journalism and safety of journalists (MSI-JO) held their second meeting on 6-7 October 2014 and advanced in their work to produce a draft recommendation for their mother committee, the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and then for consideration by the Committee of Ministers. A third meeting to finalize the draft recommendation is scheduled to take place in early 2015.
4. The **Council of Europe**, together with **the Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)** **at the** **University of Sheffield**, and the **European Lawyer's Union**, **UNESCO**, and the **European Court of Human Rights** organized on 3 November 2014 a 'Seminar and Inter-Regional Dialogue on the Protection of Journalists' to examine the current legal programmes and mechanisms which protect journalists and media staff worldwide as well as to discuss the protective legal framework for the media and establish concrete steps for its improvement.
5. The **African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights** adopted a number of resolutions on the issue of safety of journalists including the Resolution 185 on the Safety of Journalists and Media Practitioners in Africa (2011) and Resolution 221 on the Attacks against Journalists and Media Practitioners in Somalia (2012, 2014). In May 2013, **the Pan African Parliament** adopted the Declaration on Press Freedom in Africa.
6. The **holders of the** **Special Procedures** mandates have given significant attention to the issues of safety of journalists. The mandate holders regularly raise concern through their communications (urgent appeals, allegation letters) and press releases, statements and thematic and country reports. They include the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (see, most recently, A/HRC/14/23 and Add.2 and A/HRC/20/17), the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (see A/HRC/20/22), and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (see A/HRC/13/22, A/HRC/19/55 and A/HRC/25/55), as well as the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. These Special Rapporteurs have highlighted the detrimental impact of attacks on journalists on the full realization of the human rights on which they are mandated to report and advise. They have made important recommendations aimed at ensuring greater protection for journalists and media workers.
7. **Regional mandate holders** have also, together with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, issued several joint declarations on different aspects of the right to freedom of expression, including the safety of journalists and media workers. For the past few years, the Special Rapporteurs have jointly issued statements on World Press Freedom Day to strongly urge for strengthening the enabling environment for freedom of expression including improving safety of journalists. Most recently, on 1 September 2014, the **UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human** and **Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression** **and Access to Information** issued a joint statement urging stronger protection of journalists covering conflicts, referring to the contexts of Syria, Ukraine, Iraq and Gaza.
8. The **OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media** monitors the safety of journalists, particularly in cases of physical attacks, incarceration and harassment. The Representative responds quickly and directly with the participating States and other parties concerned through diplomatic channels and public statements. The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media updated its ‘[Safety of Journalists’ guidebook](http://www.osce.org/fom/118052) in May 2014, including its guidelines on digital safety. In addition, the OSCE representative on freedom of the media has increasingly included the issue of the digital safety in her [statements and speeches](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/MediaLandscape2011.pdf) as well as the [regular reports](http://www.osce.org/pc/109182).
9. The **Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States (OAS)** has a strong focus on the safety of journalists. In 2013, the Office of the Special Rapporteur published a report entitled **Violence against journalists and media workers: Inter-American standards and national practices on prevention, protection and prosecution of perpetrators**[[6]](#footnote-6) as well as covers the topic in its Annual Reports.

**Expected Outcome 3.2: The work of international non-governmental organizations, including professional organizations and media, is reinforced and also harmonised with relevant UN system actions at international level and Expected Outcome 3.3: The work of civil society, professional associations, media houses and academia is reinforced and harmonised with other national partners, including relevant actions of the UN system at country level. (This section refers to Actions 3.2.1 to 3.3.14 in the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

Note:At the time of writing it was difficult to provide an in-depth assessment of all these groups’ activities from the point of view of reinforcement and harmonization with the Plan at either international and national level. However, a significant proportion of these actors has referenced the Plan, and most of them have participated in events where the Plan has been discussed. A number of specific instances have been covered earlier in this report.

1. The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** has a strong focus on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. Their annual publication *Attacks on the Press* provides an all-inclusive overview of violations and threats to the media, based on results of a global survey. Since 1992, CPJ investigates and tracks the killing of journalists worldwide by documenting and publicizing the judicial progress of their cases. CPJ dispatches advocacy missions throughout the world every year to raise concerns regarding press freedom with high levels of government. Their global campaign against impunity encompasses this research and is represented in the Global Impunity Index, which ranks countries based on the amount of unresolved cases. In 2014, CPJ published the report [*Road to Justice: Breaking the Cycle of Impunity in the Killing of Journalists*](https://cpj.org/reports/2014/10/the-road-to-justice-killing-journalists-impunity.php) to mark the inaugural International Day to End Impunity which focus specifically on the killings of journalists. It has published and periodically updates a journalist security guide. CPJ’s Journalist Assistance program provides legal, medical, and relocation assistance to journalists at risk, along with support for families of slain and imprisoned journalists. The program has facilitated the development of two inter-organizational networks—one in African and one focused on the MENA region—to share information and coordinate joint responses.
2. **International Media Support (IMS**) supports local media in countries affected by armed conflict and political transition. IMS ranks the safety of journalists as one of its top priorities and advocates for the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. It contributed directly to safety of journalists activities in the four first phase countries as well as other countries. An extensive three-year project was implemented in Pakistan to reinforce the capacities of indigenous journalists and media workers, including a safety fund, survival trainings, and development of safety protocols and best practices. **In Pakistan,** with support of the **Open Society Foundations**, IMS is funding two ongoing activities - the Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund (PJSF) and a research study - **Supporting media in conflict: A case study of threats to journalists in Pakistan** and assessment of options to reduce and manage these threats. Both the activities are supporting the UN Plan of Action in Pakistan. **In Nepal**, IMS supports the establishment of a mechanism to protect journalists at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). UNESCO has contracted IMS to coordinate the implementation of 18 activities in its larger project in collaboration with other partners. **In Iraq,** IMS has established close dialogue with key authorities and police to ensure journalists through a joint code of conduct and strengthened mutual understanding of the rights and responsibilities of journalists and police. Similar, dialogue was conducted in the Kurdistan region. **In South Sudan,** UNESCO, IMS and the local media community have frequently met with officials and sought to build relations, explaining about the UN Action Plan initiative. One of the priorities is to strengthen the regionally based Media Observatory Committees of UJOSS.
3. **The International Press Institute** (IPI) represents a global network of editors, media executives, and prominent journalists and publishes the World Press Freedom Review every year, which combines several essays on media issues throughout the world and provides recommendations to alleviate them. In addition, IPI documents the killing of journalists in their “Death Watch” and provides a platform dedicated to press freedom via their annual World Congress. Their 2011 special report **‘Impunity: A Global Scourge**’ detailed the situation of impunity in Russia, Mexico, Colombia, and the Philippines, raising awareness about the dangers of impunity and calling for cooperative action to ensure justice. Furthermore, IPI conducts research and fact-finding missions to countries where freedom of expression is under threat.
4. The **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ**) represents over 600,000 journalists worldwide and launched a concrete website portal dedicated to the safety of journalists and the protection of the media in 2013, where it documents and monitors the killing of journalists. In addition, IFJ provides expertise and assistance to media workers to ensure their safety as well as an International Safety Fund to support journalists under threat. UNESCO has provided symbolic support for IFJ’s activities in training of local trainers on safety issues. In concurrence with the International Day to End Impunity, IFJ launched their first ‘End Impunity’ campaign in 2013, urging national authorities of the countries with the highest killing of journalists to investigate their cases and bring the perpetrators to justice. (At country level, such as in Pakistan and South Sudan, journalists’ organisations have been very active in promoting safety issues).
5. **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)** monitors infractions against freedom of expression in over 150 countries. They also produce the annual press freedom ranking. RSF advocates for a better enabling environment for journalists to practice their profession and supports international standards including the UN Plan of Action. It provides training in both physical and digital security of journalists. In total, more than 700 journalists, bloggers and citizen-journalists attended RSF’s digital safety workshops in 2013 and 2014. RSF has a hotline for emergency where journalists in risk could contact available 24 hours a day every day. RSF provided safety resources for journalists dispatched in dangerous areas, without charge including lending bullet proof jackets marked “PRESS” to 41 journalists in 2013, and 40 in 2014 as well as loans of helmets benefited to 42 journalists in 2013, and 55 in 2014. In 2013, RSF allocated 157 assistance grants to journalists. It also provides assistance to journalists forced to flee their country for safety reasons. RSF submit requests for international protection to institutions in charge of refugees or asylum seekers, and provide support letters describing the applicant’s situation and the situation of freedom of information in their country. RSF developed insurance formulas in cooperation with an insurance company, for journalists, photographers and freelance journalists engaged in professional missions outside their country of habitual residence, including the most dangerous areas, at a preferential rate. Hundreds of journalists benefit from such services. 434 journalists subscribed such insurances in 2013. RSF’s “**Handbook for Journalists**”, compiled in partnership with UNESCO, was published in 2007 and is frequently updated. The handbook is aimed at those travelling to dangerous parts of the world. The Swedish chapter of RSF is working on a new handbook for journalists travelling to dangerous areas.
6. The **Open Society Foundations’ (OSF)** Program on Independent Journalism, and the relevant country and regional offices of OSF, continue to collaborate with international support and UNESCO on projects in the first phase countries of South Sudan, Pakistan, Honduras, Mexico and Iraq. To complement this work the Journalism Program has funded the Center for Freedom of the Media, at the University of Sheffield to host the London Symposium on Journalists’ Safety earlier in 2014 and the Seminar and Inter-regional Dialogue on the protection of journalists. It has is also supporting study being conducted by the Federation de la Libertad de la Prensa (FLIP), Columbia to compare the Mexican and Columbian experiences of the construction, revision and implementation of the legal protection mechanism in the two countries. Together with OSF’s Latin America Program the Journalism programme is funding Article 19’s safety trainings for journalists in Mexico, developing a safety training program in Brazil and working to strengthen freedom of expression groups in Honduras through a mentoring programme.
7. **The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, or WAN-IFRA,** is the global organisation of the world’s press, representing more than 18,000 publications, 15,000 online sites and over 3,000 companies in more than 120 countries. WAN-IFRA frequently conducts the country visits to assess the situation of press freedom in the country. It also calls on authorities to ensure journalists are able to work in a safe environment. The organisation’s World Editors Forum is working with UNESCO to conduct a global survey on shield laws for journalists in the digital age.
8. **Article 19** raises public awareness about impunity and safety of journalists through research, campaigning, advocacy, setting standards, publishing, and monitoring as well as providing legal assistance with transitional countries in order to safeguard freedom of expression. Their country reports assess the media freedom and the right of freedom of expression within a nation’s borders, including recommendations to improve the situation. In August 2014, Article 19 released the film ‘Journalists under Attack’ on the dangers faced by Russian journalists, sensitizing the public on the risks media workers encounter daily.
9. **Freedom House** is a press freedomwatchdog organization that annually investigates the situation of human rights and civil liberties in every country. Their research and analysis serve as campaigning and advocacy tools for local and international stakeholders to primarily amend existing restrictive legislation. Their affiliate Freedom House Mexico specifically implements safety and self-protection trainings for Mexican media professionals and provides capacity-building resources to strengthen local institutions and facilitate legal reform.
10. **International Freedom of Expression Exchange, IFEX** is a network of freedom of expression organizations active at the local, national, regional and international level, spanning 60 countries, with more than two thirds based in the Global South, and each with their areas of expertise. The safety of journalists, media workers, artists, writers, and others who are threatened, forced into exile and even killed for exercising their right to free expression is a major concern for the over 90 members of IFEX. On a daily basis, IFEX members monitor, report, campaign and advocate to stop attacks on journalists and to end the impunity that is so often connected with them**.** During its General Meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2011, the network launched the International Day to End Impunity (IDEI) campaign. It was a global call to action to demand justice for those who have been targeted for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and to shed light on the issue of impunity. The day chosen, 23 November, marked the anniversary of the 2009 Maguindanao, Ampatuan massacre, when 58 people – including 32 journalists and media workers – were killed. IFEX has now aligned this campaign to commence on the UN’s International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.
11. The **International Research & Exchanges Board** (**IREX**) advocates for the development of independent media to promote good governance and ensure sustainability. The organization conducts research on the conditions of independent media in 80 countries around the world, which is compiled and analyzed in IREX’s ‘Media Sustainability Index’. Their S.A.F.E. (Securing Access to Free Expression) Initiative provides integrated safety trainings and support to media professionals who face threats in Latin America, Eurasia, and Africa. Establishing regional security centers in El Salvador, Georgia, and Kenya, S.A.F.E. combines training in digital security, physical safety, and psychosocial care for journalists. In accordance with the International Day to End Impunity in November 2013, IREX hosted a panel discussion on gender-based violence against journalists.
12. **Doha Centre for Media Freedom (DCMF)** is active in the Middle East and North African region (MENA), where they have implemented several trainings on journalism safety and professional reporting including such activities as training Syrian journalists based in Turkey in June 2014 regarding their personal security and how to face dangerous situations. In 2013, three safety-training workshops were conducted for Palestinian journalists to strengthen their knowledge of reporting on sensitive issues in perilous areas. In addition to training and educating media professionals, the DCMF conducts research about press freedom throughout the MENA region and provides direct assistance and support to journalists who are harassed or threatened in relation to their work.
13. **The International News Safety Institute (INSI)** provides real-time, practical information, training and research to help journalists around the world do their jobs safely. It has also published the landmark publication on safety of women journalists “**No Womens-land**” and co-authored with the **International Women’s Media Foundation** the **Global Survey on Violence and Harassment against Women in the News Media**, which was funded through UNESCO with support from the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
14. **Press Emblem Campaign (PEC)** has UN Consultative Status, and advocates for legal protection and safety of journalists in conflict zones and dangerous areas. Pressing the issue of impunity on general debates and sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, PEC monitors the killing of journalists worldwide and awards its yearly PEC Prize for the Protection of Journalists to both individuals and organizations who have defended freedom of expression.
15. **Free Press Unlimited**’s main focus is the distribution of objective and accurate information to society’s least connected through independent media. Community projects and local media capacity-building initiatives further access to impartial information and support the advancement of independent media in countries where press freedom is limited.
16. The **World Press Freedom Committee** primarily targets defamation laws and censorship on a global scale and aims for their removal from the penal and criminal code.
17. **PEN International c**ampaigns against impunity and the curtailment of freedom of speech in general, PEN International publicly condemns violations against the press and advocates for the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. The international association of writers conducted the ‘Write Against Impunity’-campaign in 2012, calling on Latin American writers to oppose the present limitations of freedom of expression within the region. A publication of writings emerged from this campaign. For 2014, the main focus was on one country in the public awareness campaign around the report ‘**Honduras: Journalism in the Shadow of Impunity’**, highlighting the dangers and threats journalists face within this Latin American country. In addition, PEN International implements rural projects to foster education and literacy.
18. **Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI**) provides legal services to independent journalists and bloggers, who can be struggling to find legal counsel when faced with criminal charges and prosecution. Since 2008, MLDI has assisted in numerous cases as well as supporting media law training courses.
19. **The International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF)** is dedicated to strengthening the role of women journalists worldwide. It conducts regular research focusing on women journalists including the Status of Women in the News Media. It also organizes the annual Courage in Journalism Award. The **Global Study on Violence and Harassment against Women in the News Media** was jointly produced with the International News Safety Institute (INSI), the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF).
20. **ICORN – International Cities of Refuge Network** is an association of cities which provide a safe haven to writers under threat of persecution, censorship, imprisonment, or even death. Writers can apply for protection and economic security within one of the cities of the ICORN-network, where they are able to stay for at least two years. The organization aims to protect writers from being silenced and in this regard promote freedom of expression.
21. Many of the organisations listed in the previous section have been very active at national level, including harmonizing in several cases with the first phase countries of the UN Plan.
22. Various other institutions, including media houses, have been contributing towards the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity under the momentum of the UN Plan. The **BBC Global New**s and the **Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)** in collaboration of **BBC College of Journalism** hosted the BBC’s Safety of Journalists Symposium in London on 7 April 2014. BBC and CFOM also organized another event in 2012 which produced the London Statement which was signed by over 40 media organizations calling for strong UN Action to stop the killings of journalists. On 3 November 2014, **CFOM** convened a high-level symposium, together with **UNESCO**, **the Council of Europe,** and **European Lawyer’s Union,** at the European Courts of Human Rights.
23. The Doha-based **Aljazeera Media Network** has organized several symposiums and seminars on the topics of safety of journalists and the issue of impunity including the seminar “Protecting the messenger: the challenges of media coverage in conflict zones” on 12 November 2013 in London. The news organization also actively provides safety training to its journalists linked to international standards.

**Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

1. One of the characteristics of the UN Plan of Action is the multi-stakeholder approach. This is based on the reality that the issue of safety of journalists is much too complex and complicated to be able to be resolved by any single actor. By drawing on the various strengths and resources of different stakeholders, collectively, there is a better prospect for improving the safety of journalists and ending impunity.
2. Yet at the same time, there exist strong differences amongst different stakeholders which make the multi-stakeholder approach challenging. There remains mistrust between the national authorities and the journalistic community in many countries. Within journalistic community in some countries, there are differences (sometimes also with employer groups) that prevent all actors from coming to the same table.
3. While the NGOs and professional associations have been active and often increased their activity at national level, the response of media houses has been more limited. With some exceptions, journalism schools have also been passive on the issue of researching and teaching around safety concerns, although in 2013 UNESCO collaborated with several to produce a **model syllabus** for teaching safety to journalism students.

**Recommendations**

1. The implementation of the UN Plan of Action will continue to be based on a multi-stakeholder approach. National-level consultation should take place involving relevant stakeholders including a diverse range of stake-holders such as local journalistic association, editors association, media owners, academia, local and international NGOs working on the issues, UN Agencies, judicial system, and relevant Ministries.
2. NGOs and professional organizations could make more use of the UN Plan to build coalitions, raise resources and enhance impact.
3. Occasions such as the UN Inter-Agency Meetings should be used to reaffirm/renew focal points of various organizations on the issue of safety of journalists.
4. Encourage journalists to monitor and report on the implementation of the safety-related instruments including but not limited to the UN Plan Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, the UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/163 and the Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/21/12 as well as Universal Periodic Review where safety of journalists is included.
5. Encourage media houses to investigate and report on fatal and non-fatal attacks on journalists and media organizations, as well as on occasions such as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists on 2 November each year.
6. Encourage journalism schools to research and teach about safety and impunity issues.

**Raising Awareness**

**Expected Result 4**: **State institutions, governments, media houses and other key stakeholders have increased awareness of the importance of safety of journalists and combating impunity, and of ways to achieve these conditions**

**Key achievements**

1. One of the expected results of the UN Plan of Action is an increased awareness among the international community about the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity as well as an increased awareness among society at national level on the importance of the issue.
2. The significant achievement here is the noticeable increased in awareness of the issue of safety of journalists in general amongst various stakeholders group.

**Expected Outcome 4.1: Increased awareness among the international community about the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (This section refers to Action 4.1.1 to 4.1.21 of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

1. As noted earlier, UNESCO has created a dedicated website ([www.unesco.org/new/en/safetyofjournalists](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safetyofjournalists)) which contains regularly updated information concerning the UN Plan of Action, various activities and upcoming events and related documents including international human rights and humanitarian laws, conventions, recommendations, guide books, good practices, practical resources on safety of journalists. Many of these information resources are available in multiple languages.
2. The **United Nations Secretary-General** and **UNESCO’s Director-General** issue joint statements on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day on 3 May. These messages address the issue of the safety of journalists as a prerequisite for a healthy environment for freedom of the press. For example, in 2013, the joint message concerned the notion of “Safe to speak: securing freedom of expression in all media”. In 2014, the joint message related to the global theme of “Media freedom for a better future: shaping the post-2015 development agenda” and a subtheme entitled “Rule of law to ensure safety of journalists and combating impunity”.
3. As indicated earlier, safety of journalists has been one of the topics highlighted during the worldwide events including **World Radio Day** on 13 February, **World Press Freedom Day** on 3 May and the **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** on 2 November. UNESCO also awards the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, honouring a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom.
4. As indicated earlier, **UNESCO Director-General** condemns the killings of journalists, media workers social media producer of significant public-interest journalism. These public statements are distributed to major news outlet and is available publicly on the dedicated website *UNESCO Condemns Killing of Journalists.*
5. Amongst the many publications by organisations cited earlier, can be added another by the **International News Safety Institute (INSI).** This is a study titled “**Journalism Safety: Threats to Media Workers and Measures to Protect Them**”. This study, supported by UNESCO, focuses on good practices that promote safety of journalists and which can be replicated around the world. Therefore an important step has been set towards the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, since sharing information on good practices was identified as an effective approach to achieve the expected results identified in the UN Plan of Action Implementation Strategy. A study of digital safety, sponsored by UNESCO with support of **Denmark**, is in process.
6. The UN Plan of Action was intensively discussed during the **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) 2013 Conference**, which took place in Rio de Janeiro Brazil and was participated by over 1000 journalists from almost 100 countries. This has the snow-ball effect in that **COLPIN** (the equivalent of GIJN for Latin America) has decided to include the issue of safety of journalists as part of its 2014 Conference. Local equivalents including **FOPEA** (Argentina), **Abraji** (Brazil) and **APU** (Uruguay) are similarly inserting the issues of safety of journalists and impunity in their respective conference agendas.

**Expected Outcome 4.2: Increased awareness among society at national level about the importance of the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (This section refers to Action 4.2.1 to 4.2.5 of the Implementation Strategy 2013-2014)**

1. As noted earlier, on 7 April 2014**, BBC Global News** and the **Centre of Freedom of the Media** (University of Sheffield) hosted a conference titled “Making the Protection of Journalists a Reality: Time to End the Scourge of Impunity”. At this one-day symposium, held at the BBC Broadcasting House in London, global media representatives showcased examples of investigative reporting and legal actions that expose the realities of anti-media violence and help to ensure that governments bring perpetrators to justice. Participants along with BBC journalists staged a public protest outside the conference venue to condemn attacks and imprisonment.
2. On 10 December 2013, **International Human Rights Day**, a Solidarity Stand was arranged in Qatar in honour of all the human rights defenders including journalists who bring vital news and information to the public on a daily basis. The Solidarity Stand was organized by the Public Liberties and Human Rights Department of Al Jazeera Media Network, took place in the Network’s Headquarters in Doha, Qatar. The aim of the annual event was to commemorate those who fought to defend human rights, including journalists who sometimes risk their lives and safety to expose corruptions or criminal activities.
3. The **Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy** organized a one-day seminar on the “Challenges of Citizen Journalism: Technology and Law” at **University of Oxford’s Socio-Legal Studies Institute** on 24 January 2014. **UNESCO** was able to present the keynote speech that linked the challenges of citizen journalism, particularly from the physical and digital safety perspective, with the recent development globally in the promotion of safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.
4. A session on Digital Safety of Journalists and other Media Actors was organized on 3 September 2014 at the **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** in Istanbul, Turkey. The event was co-hosted by **UNESCO**, the **Committee to Protect Journalists**, and the **Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information**.

**Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

1. Media houses are often reluctant to highlighting the issue of safety of journalists even when it their own staffers were involved.
2. While the general awareness of the issue of safety of journalists continues to increase, the knowledge of international instruments including the UN Plan of Action and availability of good practice and training resources is still limited.
3. The UN Plan’s proposal for memorials and naming of heritage in relation to journalist safety has not seen significant outcomes.

**Recommendations**

1. Activities need to continue in order to raise awareness of the issue of the safety of journalists and of the UN Plan of Action as well as the availability of good practices and training material made more widely and easily available.
2. Media houses and other actors should be encouraged to find common ground on the issue of safety and be more proactive in highlighting the issues
3. National consultative dialogues with a multi-stakeholder approach need to take place.
4. With the opportunity of Impunity Day to draw attention to due process and the rule of law, a set of different stakeholders can be encouraged to see the importance of justice for attacked journalists as a gateway to combatting crime and impunity more broadly.

**Overall Conclusion and Recommendations**

1. The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity is a process, not an event or a single activity. This is appropriate to its purpose which recognises that securing safety and combatting impunity are “long haul” issues. While progress has been made, much more can be done, including adaptations based on the lessons and recommendations of this review document.
2. Significant momentum on the issues of safety of journalists and of ending impunity has been gained in the past two years. Keeping the momentum at the international level is vital for the long term sustainability of efforts done in these areas.
3. A prior assessment of various factors is important before implementing the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in any country. These factors include but are not limited to: the need of the country; political will including the commitment of the government to improve the situation of safety of journalists and those of local media community; human resources including credible and capable partners from UN Agencies to local NGOs; stability of the country concerned; funding; etc. The Journalists’ Safety Indicators can be a tool to map the baseline and bring actors together to identify priorities for action.
4. Each stakeholder group should continue to have a focal point on the issues. Occasions such as the UN Inter-Agency Meetings should be used to reaffirm/renew focal points of various organizations on the issue of safety of journalists.
5. At the national level, it is vital to have a multi-stakeholder approach to address the issue of safety and ending impunity. While methods may differ, each participant needs to agree that the safety of journalists is a common point of reference where collaboration could be built or strengthened.

***Strengthening UN Mechanism***

1. Encourage better sharing of good practices and toolkits, and raising awareness of reporting on achievements regarding the UN Plan in order to mainstream safety of journalistic and impunity in the diverse work of each UN agencies, according to each agency’s mandate. This applies to communication between headquarters and field offices.
2. Encourage more collaborative work in overlapping areas amongst UN Agencies as part of mainstreaming the safety of journalists into the work of respective UN Agencies. UN Agencies should be more proactive in reaching out to their counterparts.

***Working with Member States***

1. Encourage the Member States to develop and implement strategies which ensure appropriate media law and regulation in line with international standards, and to provide capacity building to enable the full investigation and prosecution of crimes against journalists. Member States can specifically be alerted to the potential of establishing a special prosecutor or independent commission, and training of the judiciary and the security forces regarding the safety of journalists.
2. Encourage the Member States to publicly condemn attacks on journalists and to initiate swift and thorough judicial investigations into these crimes.
3. Encourage the Member States to actively provide information concerning the judicial investigations of killings of journalists to UNESCO as part of the Director-General’s Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.
4. Based on experiences from first phase countries, sufficiently large stakeholder discussions need to take place to select implementing partners. For example, it was important to engage stakeholders with extended national presence (beyond the capital city) in order to have impact beyond the selected districts.
5. Encourage the scale of intervention be increased, and the period of the implementation of the activities that had been foreseen under the country plan of action be extended. This is necessary in order to ensure that the safety of journalists issue will continued to be addressed in the long term in the country.

***Partnering with International, Regional, and National Organizations***

1. Regionally, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity are gaining momentum and strength in the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States (OAS), and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). There remain regions where work on safety of journalists and of combatting impunity could be strengthened at a regional level especially in the Africa, Arab States and Asia. The nascent initiative to create a Special Rapporteur for the Arab States region is one such example.
2. Ensure that the implementation of the UN Plan of Action will continue to be based on a multi-stakeholder approach. National-level consultation should take place involving relevant stakeholders including a diverse range of stake-holders such as local journalistic association, editors association, media owners, academia, local and international NGOs working on the issues, UN Agencies, judicial system, and relevant Ministries.
3. Encourage international, regional, and local NGOs as well as professional organizations to make more use of the UN Plan of Action to build coalitions, raise resources and enhance impact.
4. Encourage journalists to monitor and report on the implementation of the safety-related instruments including but not limited to the UN Plan Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, the UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/163 and the Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/21/12 as well as Universal Periodic Review (UPR) where safety of journalists is included.
5. Encourage media houses to investigate and report on fatal and non-fatal attacks on journalists and media organizations, as well as on occasions such as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November each year.
6. Encourage journalism schools to research and teach about safety and impunity issues.

***Awareness-raising***

1. Encourage activities to raise awareness of the issue of the safety of journalists, combatting impunity and of the UN Plan of Action as well as the availability of good practices and training material made more widely and easily available.
2. Encourage media houses and other actors should to find common ground on the issue of safety and be more proactive in highlighting the issues.
3. Encourage stakeholders to take advantage of international days including World Radio day (13 February), World Press Freedom Day (3 May) International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 November), and the International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December) to draw attention to due process and the rule of law, the safety of journalists; to encourage (new) stakeholders to see the importance of justice for attacked journalists as a gateway to combatting crime and impunity more broadly.

***Monitoring and Assessment***

1. Recommend the systematic monitoring and analysis of the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity in order to identify more accurately the complexity of factors driving attacks on journalists and high level of impunity, in order to better inform future strategies.
2. Recommend the second phase of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity to be extended from a two-year period (2013-2014) to a four-year period (2015-2018).
3. In order to assess the implementation of the UN Plan Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, a comprehensive review should take place at the end of the second phase of the implementation in 2018. Shorter or targeted review meetings can be envisaged in the intervening years as needed.
1. When referring to journalists, this document includes media workers and social media producers who produce significant amounts of public-interest journalism. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [www.unesco.org/new/en/SafetyofJournalists](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/SafetyofJournalists). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_s&id_article=4412> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For the purpose of this report, the European Union being a supranational organisation appears in this chapter as it is also a regional organization. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Available from www.oas.org/en/iachr/expression/reports/thematic.asp; the report was also published in the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2013 (vol. II): Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, chap III. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)