WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2019

GLOBAL CONFERENCE
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
1 - 3 MAY

MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY
JOURNALISM AND ELECTIONS IN TIMES OF DISINFORMATION

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

African Union

#WORLDPRESSFREEDOMDAY
#PRESSFREEDOM

PROGRAMME

PARTNERS' FORA

WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2019

08:30	**Registration at Intercontinental Hotel only** ***Registration available for all participants on 30 April to 1 May all day*** **Be sure to pick up your badges at Intercontinental beforehand. No registration at UNECA**							**08:45**
09:00								
10:00 **-12:00**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
12:00 **-13:30**	**Lunch Break / Tour to Africa Hall in UNECA** Venue: UN Conference Centre - UNECA Compound							
13:30 **-15:00**	**9**		**3**	**10**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
15:00 **-15:30**	**Refreshment Break** Venue: UN Conference Centre - UNECA Compound							
15:30 **-17:00/**	**11**	**12**	**3**	**10**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
-18:00								

EthioJazz: International Jazz Day in Ethiopia

Venue: Ethiopia National Theatre, Gambia St, Addis Ababa
Free and open concert to all participants

PARALLEL SESSIONS | CLOSED MEETINGS* | OPEN EVENTS

SEE DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL SESSIONS IN THE PARTNERS' FORA SECTION (PAGE 12)

1

Parallel Session A
#journodefender – Turning Trolling against Journalists on its Head

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 3

Organizers:
FOJO Media Institute / UNESCO

Interactive team debate

2

Parallel Session B
Telling the Story of Elections and Disinformation: A Comparative Perspective

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 5

Organizer:
ARTICLE 19

Participatory storytelling

3

Design Thinking Workshop
on Interactive Communications between the African Union and Citizens

Time and Venue:
09:00 - 17:00
Large Briefing Room
Organizers:
African Union / GIZ

Interactive debate
(by invitation only)

4

Parallel Session C
Protecting Democracy: Defending the Media whilst Harnessing the Benefits of ICT – A Commonwealth Perspective on the Role of Human Rights

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 6

Organizer:
Commonwealth Secretariat

Interactive discussion

5

Media Reform in Ethiopia: A Consultation for Collective Action

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 18:00
Caucus Room 1

Organizer:
CIMA

Closed Workshop

6

Workshop on Artistic Freedom

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 18:00
Small briefing room

Organizer:
UNESCO

Closed meeting

7

Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists

Time and Venue:
10:00 - 18:00
Conference Room 4

Organizer:
UNESCO / Makerere University / OsloMet University / The University of Sheffield / The University of Malaga

8

Joint Media Forum – Challenges and opportunities for the Media in the Age of Disinformation

Time and Venue:
08:45 - 18:00
Conference Room 2

Organizers:
African Union / UNESCO / APRM / African Media Initiative (AMI) / OHCHR/ Africa Editors' Forum (TAEF) / EILCO-IOHR

9

Parallel Session D
Best Practices on Elections Reporting: When Stakeholders Come Together

Time and Venue:
13:30 - 15:00
Conference Room 5

Organizers:
Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) / International Media Support (IMS)

Interview style

10

Lab on Online Harassment of Women Journalists

Time and Venue:
13:30 - 18:00
Conference Room 3

Organizers:
UNESCO / Global Diplomacy Lab / International Alumni Centre / World Wide Web Foundation

Closed session

11

Parallel Session F
Media and Elections in Africa

Time and Venue:
15:30 - 17:00
Conference Room 6

Organizers:
IREX – SAFE EA / KICTANet

Interactive debate

12

Parallel Session E
Media and Information Literacy for Peace and Resilience Building

Time and Venue:
15:30 - 17:00
Conference Room 5

Organizers:
Embassy of Portugal to Ethiopia / UNESCO – IICBA

Participatory storytelling

* SEE ALL CLOSED MEETINGS FROM 30 APRIL TO 3 MAY ON PAGE 22

DOWNLOAD WPFD 2019 MOBILE APP TO CHECK TIME AND ROOM UPDATES

DAY 1
THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2019

08:30 -09:30

Registration for all participants

All participants are advised to pick up their conference badges at Intercontinental Hotel on 30 April and 1 May (all day)

09:30 -10:15

Opening Ceremony

Venue: Mandela Hall

10:15 -12:00

Plenary Session 1

Strengthening Media's Role in the Face of New Challenges
Venue: Mandela Hall

12:00 -13:30

Lunch Break

Venue: African Union Forecourt and Multipurpose Hall

13:30 -15:00

Parallel Session 1

Artificial Intelligence, Journalism, and Press Freedom in Times of Elections

Organizers:
International Media Support (IMS) / UNESCO
Venue:
Medium Conference Room

Panel discussion

Parallel Session 2

AU Protocol /Declaration/Working Group on the Safety of Journalists

Organizers:
African Union Commission, UNESCO and Safety of Journalists stakeholders in Africa, AU Peer Review Mechanism
Venue:
Small Conference Room 2

Panel discussion

Parallel Session 3

Journalism under the Firing Line: Facing the Challenges of Covering Elections in the Digital Age

Organizers:
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) / Federation of African journalists (FAJ)
Venue:
Small Conference Room 3

Panel discussion

15:00 -15:30

Refreshment Break

Venue: Lobby

15:30 -17:00

Parallel Session 4

Media, Public Trust, and the Crisis of Democracy

Organizers:
PROJECT SYNDICATE / Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) / European Journalism Centre (EJC)
Venue:
Medium Conference Room

Round table

Parallel Session 5

Electoral practitioners' responses to new challenges related to information flows in protecting the integrity of elections

Organizers:
UNESCO / UNDP/ International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance / AUC / African Union of Broadcasters / Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
Venue:
Small Conference Room 2

Round table

Parallel Session 6

True Story..? A Verification Quiz Show"

Organizer:
Deutsche Welle Akademie (DWA)
Venue:
Small Conference Room 3

Quiz show

Parallel Session 7

The Role of Media in Promoting Good Governance Trough the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Organizers:
African Union Peer Review Mechanism with Africa Media Stakeholders
Venue:
Caucus Room

Panel discussion

17:00 -19:00

Transfer to Hotels & to Venue of Prize Ceremony

(upon invitation only)

19:00 -22:00

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony and Gala Dinner

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Taitu Street, Addis Ababa (Doors open 18:30)

DAY 2
FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2019

08:30 -09:30

Registration for all participants

All participants are advised to pick up their conference badges at Intercontinental Hotel on 30 April and 1 May (all day).

09:30 -11:00

Parallel Session 8

Social Media Councils: A New Regulatory Model for Content Moderation in Global Perspective

Organizers:
Stanford University / ARTICLE 19
Venue:
Medium Conference Room

Interactive workshop

Parallel Session 9

Doing What It Takes: Making the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa Work

Organizers:
fesmedia Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Venue:
Small Conference Room 2

Interactive fireside discussion

Parallel Session 10

Towards Constructive Dialogue and Shared Narratives: Exploring Media's Role in Conflict-Prone Societies

Organizer:
South East Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA)
Venue:
Small Conference Room 3

Panel discussion

11:00 -12:30

Plenary Session 2

Media, Democracy and Elections
Venue: Mandela Hall

12:30 -14:00

Lunch Break

Venue: African Union Forecourt and Multipurpose Hall

14:00 -15:30

Parallel Session 11

Understanding Electoral Information Flows: Mapping the Impact of Digital Technology from Network Disruptions to Disinformation

Organizer:
Global Network Initiative (GNI)
Venue:
Medium Conference room

Panel discussion

Parallel Session 12

Cartooning for Peace and Democracy: Artistic Freedom and Freedom of Expression at the Tip of the Pen

Organizers:
Cartooning for Peace / UNESCO
Venue:
Small Conference Room 2

Panel session + live drawing

Parallel Session 13

Enabling Freedom of Information: What can the SDG Agenda mean for you?

Organizer:
Free Press Unlimited (FPU)
Venue:
Small Conference Room 3

Panel discussion with storytelling

15:30 -16:00

Refreshment Break

Venue: Lobby

16:00 -17:30

Parallel Session 14

Press Freedom in Ethiopia – Before and After the Transition

Organizers:
Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters (AEB) / UNDP / UNESCO
Venue:
Medium Conference Room

Panel discussion

Parallel Session 15

Enlarging Choices: Artistic Freedom and Diversity of Contents

Organizer:
UNESCO
Venue:
Small Conference Room 2

Short film screening + panel discussion

Parallel Session 16

Keeping It On at Election Times: Navigating the Dilemma, Mapping Good Practices

Organizers:
Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) / Access Now
Venue:
Small Conference Room 3

Panel discussion

17:45 -18:30

Closing Session: Adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration / Handover to 2020 Host

Venue: Mandela Hall

DOWNLOAD
WPFD 2019
MOBILE APP
TO CHECK
TIME UPDATES

WORLD PRESS PHOTO EXHIBITION

Photos of the winners of the 2019 World Press Photo contest will be exhibited digitally on a large LED screen.

OPENING: 2 MAY | LOBBY A

FAKE ≠ FACT

FAKE ≠ FACT INFO LAB

The Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia and the Swedish Institute - together with Swedish Media Institute Fojo - proudly presents the Fake ≠ Fact Info Lab at the World Press Freedom Day in Addis Abeba. The exhibition that investigates the flow of messages that hide opinions formed in the dim environments of the internet.

OPENING: 2 MAY | LOBBY A

CARTOONING FOR PEACE
EXHIBITION AND LIVE MURAL

Check out the series of press freedom inspired cartoons by members of Cartooning for Peace – the network of press cartoonists set up by Kofi Annan and Plantu, - and don't miss the opportunity to see them drawing on the "live" mural.

OPENING: 3 MAY | LOBBY A

ETHIOJAZZ: INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY IN ETHIOPIA

This year, the city of Addis Ababa celebrates International Jazz Day, organized and led by the founder of Ethio-Jazz, Dr Mulatu Astatke, performances and concerts with regional performers, particularly from the Southern part of Ethiopia. The event is free and open to all WPFD participants.

1 MAY | ETHIOPIA NATIONAL THEATRE

AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES - PHOTO EXHIBITION

This is an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of Africa's cultural and natural heritage, embodying outstanding universal values. This is a moment for the world to stand with Governments, local communities and societies to support one of the continent's most precious resources. Africa's cultural and natural heritage is a force for peace – it is also a driver of development and innovation.

OPENING: 2 MAY

ETHIOPIA NATIONAL THEATRE

Theatre performance based on Socrates' last days and his struggle for his right to freedom of expression.

3 MAY | FOLLOWING THE CLOSING SESSION

DW AKADEMIE BOOTH

Access to information and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights and key to sustainable development. Test your knowledge with our games and quizzes about media freedom worldwide at DW Akademie's info space at the World Press Freedom Day 2019!
DW Akademie has developed numerous interactive "serious games" and digital interactives with the aim to teach critical media literacy.

2 -3 MAY | LOBBY A

YOUTH NEWSROOM

This year, the Youth Newsroom is hosted by the School of Journalism at the University of Addis Ababa. The Youth Newsroom will offer media students and young reporters the opportunity to work with international peers in covering a major international event live, with guidance from experienced professionals. Youth Newsroom participants will have the opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with leading media professionals, including Jonathan Munro, Head of Newsgathering at BBC News and different guests press cartoonists from the Cartooning for Peace Network.

Be sure to follow the fresh perspectives of the Youth Newsroom's articles, photos and video coverage of this global event. Don't forget to follow their website and social media channels!

Found out more about the students that are participating this year at:
https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldpressfreedomday/

ABOUT

World Press Freedom Day hosts a youth newsroom, which engages journalism students and young reporters from all corners of the world in covering plenaries, parallel sessions and side events.

The young journalism students conduct interviews with participants and provide background stories and editorials. Photographers, videographers, social media producers, and other journalists work together, guided by a team of national and international experienced journalists and editors.

PARTNERS

UNESCO
Government of Finland
Addis Ababa University
NLA Høgskolen
BBC Media Action
University of Oregon - UNESCO Institute for Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict-Sensitive reporting

CAN'T FIND YOUR SESSION?

Download the World Press Freedom Day 2019 Conference mobile app !

Don't miss any update, share your comments on the sessions, and connect with participants with the app's network features.

Look for WPFD 2019 in the Apple and Google app stores.

Download on the App Store

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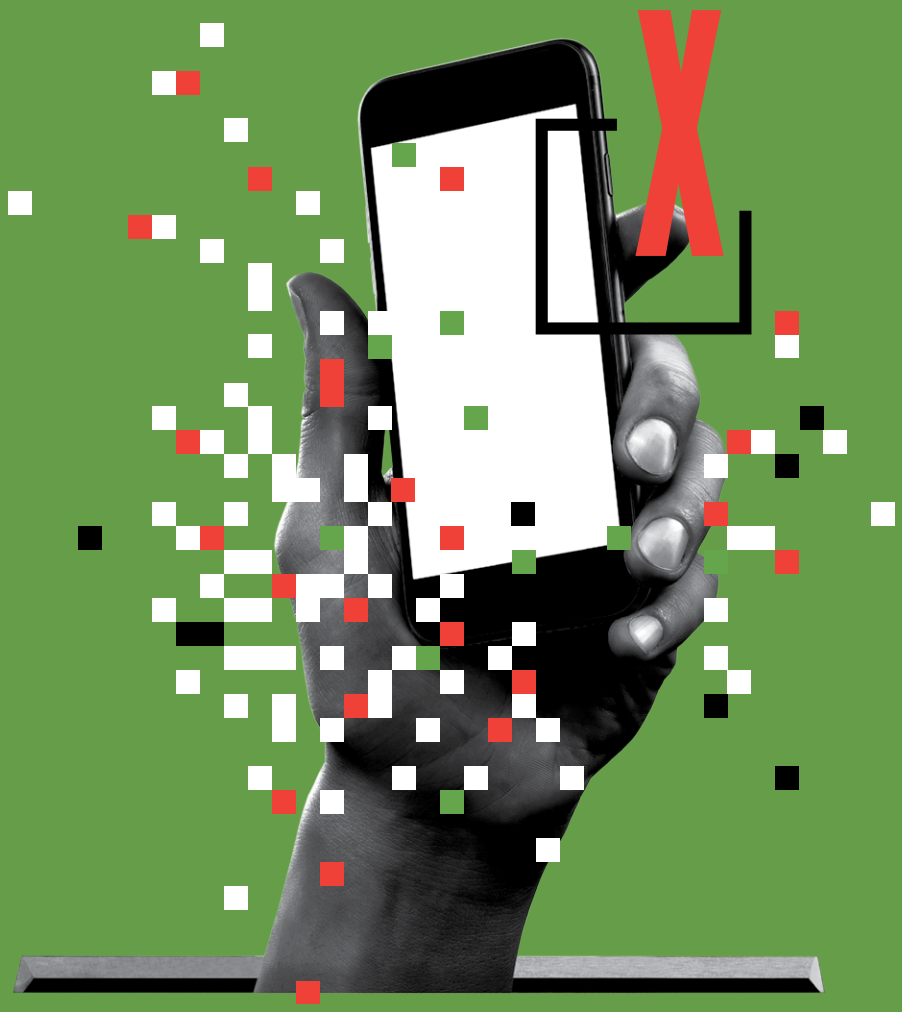
WPFD 2019

IOS Android

PARTNERS' FORA

MAY 1
VENUE: UNECA



JOINT MEDIA FORUM –

Challenges and opportunities for the Media in the Age of Disinformation

TIME AND VENUE
08:45 - 18:00
Conference Room 1

Focal points:
Lydiah Gachungi (l.gachungi@unesco.org) and John Bosco Mayiga (jb.mayiga@unesco.org)

OPENING SESSION
Moez Chakchouk
Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

H.E. Nigussu Tilahu
Press Secretary/Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Ethiopia

H.E.Mr Morten Assland
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the African Union

Wynne Musabayana
Head of Communication, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission.

MODERATOR
Umbi Karuaihe-Upi
Namibia Broadcasting Corporation, Chair of Southern Africa Broadcasting Association Gender Committee

SESSION 1
Alphonce Shiundu
Country Editor, Africa Check

Tom Mshindi
Media Consultant, African Council for Communication Education

Sherif Alaa
Programme Manager, North Africa and West Asia, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

Kabiru Yusuf
Chair, Media Trust Limited

Roukaya Kasenally (Moderator)
CEO, African Media Initiative

SESSION 2
David Kaye
UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Alastair King-Smith
Coordinator of the UK Foreign Office's Global Campaign for Media Freedom

PROGRAMME

08:45 – 09:15
Opening Session
The opening session will be interactive with a panel of key leaders from government, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations sharing their opinions on the theme of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations.

09:15 - 10:45
Session 1
Fact Checking and Elections: Ensuring Fair, Balanced and Credible Elections in Africa:
In an era where mis- and disinformation seem to create alternative realities and threaten the basis of democracy, it is more important than ever for journalism to be factually correct. Today, many people find it hard to differentiate between what is authentic and what constitutes propaganda. This state of affairs puts a direct strain on the production and consumption of everyday news. This becomes particularly problematic during elections, where the peddling of fake and distorted news can harm the integrity of the electoral process. The aim of this panel is to showcase one of the leading examples on the continent – Africa Check, which has been equipping journalists with the methods and skills to instill a culture of fact-checking in their newsrooms.

11:00 - 12:00
Session 2
Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech in the Context of Human Rights
Governments around the world face challenges to balance rights to freedom of opinion and expression on the one hand, and prohibitions of incitement to hatred on the other. Both obligations are enshrined in international human rights law. Rights to free expression and prohibitions of hate speech are cited in numerous resolutions and declarations agreed by Member States of the United Nations and regional organisations, like the African Union. Nevertheless, the practical application of these norms often causes serious contention, as journalists and media professionals in many countries continue to face various forms of threat, including killings, beatings and arrests. The objective of this session is to increase understanding of applicable international standards on how to strike a balance on freedom of expression and hate speech and explore possible areas of collaboration to tackle hate speech, while promoting and protecting the exercise of the right to freedom of expression.

12:00 - 12:40
Session 3
AFROBAROMETER Findings on the Media in Africa (2016-2018)
Even though a plurality of Africans assess media freedoms in their country as increasing, support for media freedoms has plummeted to a historic low. This is a worrisome trend, and an indicator that popular concerns about fake news, hate speech, and other messages could give governments broadened opportunities to place new limitations on media. The objective of this session is to review results on Africans' assessments of and support for media freedoms, as measured in Afrobarometer surveys in thirty-four countries, with 45,000 respondents, between 2016 and 2018. Panellists will discuss the potential causes of these shifts in public opinion, as well as the possible ramifications for the media and democracy, more broadly.

12:40 - 14:30 Lunch break and tour of the Africa Hall (UNECA) and Exhibition

Continued on the next page...

JOINT MEDIA FORUM –

Challenges and opportunities for the Media in the Age of Disinformation

Getachew Engida
Former Deputy-Director General of UNESCO, Distinguished Professor of Leadership & Management, Development Institute (CALDI); Tsinghua University, Beijing, PR China.

Elias Meseret Taye
Journalist and Lawyer, Correspondent for The Associated Press (AP) to Ethiopia and the African Union (AU)

SESSION 3

Josephine Appiah-Nyamekye Sanny
Communications Coordinator for Anglophone West Africa, Afrobarometer

Jeff Conroy-Krutz
Associate Professor of Political Science,Michigan State University, and Working Papers Editor, Afrobarometer

Nana Kwasi Gyan-Apenteng
Consultant in media, culture and communication, Former Chair, National Media Commission of Ghana

Zoe Titus
Strategic Coordinator, Namibia Media Trust

SESSION 4

Trish Lynch (Moderator)
TV Presenter, IOHR

Ruth Nesoba
Deployments Editor, BBC World Service

Befekadu Hailu
Writer, Blogger and Democracy Activist

Valerie Peay
Director, International Observatory of Human Rights and the Trustee Director of the Royal Caledonian Educational Trust

Woubshet Taye Abebe
Editor in Chief, Gulale Post Magazine

Sirgut Yadeta
Co-founder, Ethiopian Institute for Leadership, Communication and Organisation

SESSION 5

Migai Akech
Governance Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism

ORGANIZERS

AU / UNESCO / APRM / African Media Initiative (AMI) / OHCHR/Africa Editors' Forum (TAEF) / EILCO-IOHR

14:30 - 16:00
Session 4
The Need for UN, International and Local protection mechanisms for journalists: First hand experiences of the consequences of lack of such mechanisms".
Journalists should be able to do their jobs without fear and with due protection when needed. Hence it is vital to have the framework for protection mechanisms in place from international, to national and local levels. The panel will share expertise on this drawing from lived experiences.

14:30 - 16:00 Tea break

16:15 - 17:45
Session 5
"The Place of Media in APRM Process".
The African Peer Review Mechanism's purpose is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building. The APRM embodies the principle of shared values and advocacy as well as of accountability, integrity and inclusivity. Hence, members of the media have a critical role to play in promoting these principles. The APRM also recognises that the media has the power to influence decisions and their implementation as well as advocate for good governance practises. Therefore, the Media represents a strategic ally for the APRM in terms of achieving its goals and it is critical for the APRM to partner with organisations that share common values particularly in relation to human rights inclusive of media freedom. In order to advance and promote the "Africa We Want", the APRM is hoping to further involve media within its processes. This will require the APRM to engage the different players in the media landscape continentally in order to identify challenges faced by media and formulate recommendations that can be implemented by countries. The objective of the APRM-Media Roundtable is to conceptualize the APRM-Media Forum while looking at ways to forge and strengthen APRM collaboration with Media in the interest of improving good governance on the Continent.

17:45 - 18:00
Way Forward: Recommendations
This Forum marks the beginning of a joint partnership that brings on board different partners to exchange ideas and address the challenges and opportunities of the media in the Age of Disinformation. Hopefully, this vehicle can later be used to ensure that we create synergy and coordination of our media and share amongst us various media development initiatives.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

TIME AND VENUE
10:30 - 18:00
Conference Room 4

Focal Point:
Sandra Sharman (s.sharman@unesco.org)

ABOUT
The fourth edition of the Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists brings together researchers from different disciplines. It also offers the possibility for them to connect with decision-makers and media practitioners.

This year, non-academics including representatives from civil society organisations will be invited to participate in the event as 'Respondents'. The role of the Respondent is to offer critique on the findings presented and suggestions on how the research can support the work of the different stakeholders, including media organisations, governments and CSOs, working towards shared strategies and objectives of promoting and defending the safety of journalists, freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

ORGANIZERS
UNESCO / Makerere University / OsloMet University / The University of Sheffield / The University of Malaga

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:30
Welcome by:
Guy Berger, Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO
Kristin Skare Orgeret, OsloMet University (Host) |Makerere University (Host)

Opening remarks by:
Jonathan Munro, Head of Newsgathering , BBC

10:30 - 11:50
Panel A: The Safety of Women Journalists
Researchers:

-'Female TV journalists defying gendered newsroom culture: A qualitative study of Pakistani Media' - Noor Rabia (Pakistan)
-'Online harassment against female journalists' - Samiksha Koirala (Nepal)
-'Online threats against women journalists in Kenya: Adequacy of cyber security laws and policies' - Jacqueline Ondimu (Kenya)
-'Assessing the presence and challenges of women in the political desk in the democratic era in Nigeria' - Yetunde Ayobolu (Nigeria)

Moderator:
Ruth De Frutos, Coordinator, UNESCO Chair in Media Freedom Journalism Safety and the Issue of Impunity at The University of Malaga

11:50 - 12:00
Respondent Panel A: Silvia Chocarro, Head of Protection, ARTICLE 19

12:00 - 13:30
Lunch break

13:30 - 14:30
Panel B: The Safety of Journalists in Times of Elections
Researchers:

-'Democracy at stake: Self-censorship as a self-defence strategy for journalists' Gerwald Walulya & Gorretti Nassanga (Uganda)
-'Online TV coverage of the first democratic municipal elections in Tunisia after the 14th January 2011' - Nouha Belaid (Tunisia)
-'Developing and validating a framework for promoting the safety of journalists covering electioneering campaigns and election processes' - Celestine Gever (Nigeria).

Moderator:
Professor Jackie Harrison, UNESCO Chair in Media Freedom Journalism Safety and the Issue of Impunity | Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)| The University of Sheffield

14:30 - 14:40
Respondent Panel B: Leon Willems, Director, Policy and Programmes, Free Press Unlimited

Continued on the next page...

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

14:40 - 15:40
Panel C (Part 1) : Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press: Internet Shutdowns | Debunking Disinformation | Governance and Justice
Researchers:

-'Debunking disinformation' - Sriram Arulchelvan (India)
-'Methodological possibilities for strengthening the monitoring of indicator 16.10.1' - Jackie Harrison, Sara Torsner & Diana Maynard (UK)
-'Information retrieval in transitional societies: Risky business' - Terje Skjerdal (Norway)

Moderator:
Professor William Tayeebwa, Head of Department, Department of Journalism and Communication, Makerere University

15:40 - 15:50
Respondent Panel C (Part 1): Bilal Randeree, Program Director for Africa & MENA Media Development Investment Fund

15:50 - 16:10
Refreshement break

16:10 - 16:50
Panel C (Part 2) : Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press: Internet Shutdowns | Debunking Disinformation | Governance and Justice
Researchers:

-'Trailer to 2019 General Elections: Debunking fake news and disinformation during elections in India' - Furquan Ameen (India)
-'Free and independent press in Bulgaria' - Gergana Georgieva

Moderator:
Professor Kristin Skare Orgeret, OsloMet University

16:50 - 17:00
Respondent Panel C (Part 2): Margaret Sentamu, Executive Director, Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)

17:00 - 17:20
Panel D: Challenges to the Overall Safety of Journalists
Researchers:

'Journalists safety and perceptions in the age of online media: the case of Ethiopia' - Nigussie Meshesha Mitike

Moderator:
Professor Kristin Skare Orgeret, OsloMet University

17:20 - 17:30
Respondent Panel D: Margaret Sentamu, Executive Director, Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)

17:30 - 17:40
Closing remarks by:
Professor Jackie Harrison, UNESCO Chair in Media Freedom Journalism Safety and the Issue of Impunity |Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)| The University of Sheffield: *'The route to the greater success of academic input into the international stakeholder efforts on journalism safety and the issue of impunity'*

LAB ON ONLINE HARASSMENT OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 18:00
Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Closed session, by invitation only
Focal point:
Theresa Chorbacher
(t.chorbacher@unesco.org)

SESSION FACILITATORS
Patrick Mpedzisi
Organizational Development Consultant

Elizabeth Maloba
Organizational Change and Business Growth Facilitator

ORGANIZERS
UNESCO / Global Diplomacy Lab / International Alumni Centre / World Wide Web Foundation

SUMMARY

As a part of a larger UNESCO initiative on countering gender-based harassment and threats against journalists, UNESCO together with the Global Diplomacy Lab, the International Alumni Center (Bosch Alumni Network) and the World Wide Web Foundation are convening a moderated brainstorming session on Tackling the Safety of Women Journalists Online. This workshop will be the second session in a series of consultation sessions organized by UNESCO and its partners on this topic, after a kick-off session in February 2019 at the OSCE in Vienna.

The session has the goal of engaging participants of different backgrounds (journalism, internet governance, academia, NGOs, government and international organization) in a discussion on best practices to counter online harassment of women journalists. Online threats, violence and harassment against women journalists are a growing problem. Such attacks hamper freedom of expression online; can lead to self-censorship and in some cases, online violence triggers offline attacks.

The results of this discussion will contribute to a UNESCO study on countering online harassment of women journalists. The study will examine gender-based harassment and threats against journalists online. With a global scope and an intersectional perspective, it will strive to develop concrete recommendations on how to combat online harassment. The recommendations will be targeted at different stakeholder groups such as governments, media organizations, judiciary, NGOs and journalists.

Through the participatory format, multi-stakeholder engagement is encouraged, delivering specific input for the research. By bringing together actors from different fields in a creative, open discussion, needs as well as potential solutions will be explored.

The session will be facilitated by Elizabeth Maloba and Patrick Mpedzisi, experienced facilitators and members of the Global Diplomacy Lab and the Bosch Alumni Network.

PARALLEL SESSION A

#journodefender – Turning Trolling against Journalists on its Head

TIME AND VENUE
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Interactive debate

SPEAKERS
Ewa Thorslund
Former Head, Swedish Media Council and Expert on Digitalization and its Effects on Society

Hadra Ahmed Ibrahim
Freelance Journalist

Nigussu Solomon
Digital Data Expert, Deputy Managing Director, Nubia Media

Lars Tallert
Head of Policy and International development, Fojo Media Institute, Linneus University

Patricia Kevine Litho
Chairperson, Ugandan Women Media Association

Julie Posetti
Senior Research Fellow, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford

MODERATOR
Marika Griehsel
Project Manager, Fojo Media Institute

ORGANIZER
FOJO Media Institute / UNESCO

SUMMARY

A panel discussion around findings, recommendations and solutions from two recent studies dealing with disinformation, online hate and harassment, particularly directed towards female journalists. The session is presented by Fojo Media Institute and UNESCO.

The study #journodefender by Fojo analyses how online propaganda against journalists across the world - through hate, harassment, threats and fabricated news – undermines independent reporting, sows doubt among the public and exposes journalists to online attacks and physical abuse to the detriment of freedom of expression and open, democratic societies.

The UNESCO study, Journalism, "fake news" and disinformation, takes the form of a handbook which aims to empower journalists to: avoid being hoaxed; to expose fraudulent information and rumour; to conduct investigations into orchestrated campaigns; and to resist attacks. The publication was produced within UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and it has been translated into Vietnamese by Fojo.

The discussion will include focus on the situation in Ethiopia, Uganda and globally and the growing awareness among media professionals of the need for new tools to stem online abuse. It will also cover calls for accountability and transparency from media companies, mobile telecom operators, governments and other economic and political actors. The floor will be open for questions.

UNESCO and Fojo Media Institute are each working to promote media development in Ethiopia. Fojo is involved in a media reform support program in collaboration with local partner Nubia Media and Communication, financed by the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia. UNESCO is using the IPDC-approved Media Development Indicators to assess legal, economic, political, infrastructural and training dimensions of the country's media.

PARALLEL SESSION B

Telling the Story of Elections and Disinformation: A Comparative Perspective

TIME AND VENUE
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 5

FORMAT
Participatory storytelling

SPEAKERS
Nobonita Chowdury
Prime Time Moderator, Rajkahon show, DBC News

Seçil Epik
Editor and Literary Critic, P24

Regina Opondo
Executive Secretary, Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (GRECO)

Amal El Mekki
Freelance Journalist

Paula Saucedo
Rompe el Miedo, ARTICLE 19

MODERATOR
Mesud Gebeyehu
Executive Director, Consortium of Ethiopian Rights Organizations (CERO)

ORGANIZER
ARTICLE 19

SUMMARY

This storytelling session takes a comparative case study perspective of recent experiences of elections and disinformation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Turkey, Mexico, Bangladesh and Senegal. Participants will discuss how traditional challenges to covering elections have evolved in the digital age and explore how social media and messaging have disrupted professional media reporting. The session will assess the role of the Internet and social media in shaping the dominant narratives in these electoral contexts and will explore the manner in which disinformation has driven election campaigning and outcomes. The event will also gauge the impact of Artificial Intelligence, in particular automated chat bots, on these elections and ask what lessons have been learned.

The participatory session will engage the audience in a discussion on how professional journalism can play a more visible and distinctive role during elections to compete with disinformation and how to better communicate the crucial role of journalists and media workers in the context of elections, including to inform the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates. Drawing on recent ARTICLE 19 reports, speakers from Brazil and Turkey will discuss how transparency and the right to information can be strengthened, while the speakers from Senegal/ Tunisia and Bangladesh will address how press freedom and electoral regulations apply to media companies and Internet governance.

PARALLEL SESSION C

Protecting Democracy: Defending the Media whilst Harnessing the Benefits of ICT - A Commonwealth Perspective on the Role of Human Rights

TIME AND VENUE
10:00 - 12:00
Conference Room 6

FORMAT
Opening statement followed by facilitated interactive discussion

SPEAKERS
Patsy Robinson
Chair. Ramphal Institute

Elena Abrusci
Senior Research Officer, Human Rights, Big Data and Technology project, The Human Rights Centre and School of Law, University of Essex

Neil Ford
Director of Communications, Commonwealth Secretariat

George Morara Monyoncho
Vice Chairperson, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

MODERATOR
Karen McKenzie
Head of Human Rights, Commonwealth Secretariat

ORGANIZER
Commonwealth Secretariat

SUMMARY

Freedoms of opinion and expression, assembly and association are fundamental rights that form the basis of the full enjoyment of a number of other rights. They are essential cornerstones of democratic societies, indispensable conditions for the full development of the person, and are at the heart of a free press and active civil society. Information and communication technologies offer significant opportunities for the advancement of these and other human rights. Inherent in such new technologies is the capacity to provide new ways to promote and protect human rights in a range of sectors and areas of life. At the same time, however, ICT has the potential to be used deleteriously to restrict, undermine or to violate the enjoyment of rights, with vulnerable groups being particularly more vulnerable, destabilizing the basis of participatory democracy in the process.

The side event will provide a forum in which to discuss maximizing ICT's benefits to individuals, responses to the many challenges presented to the media by new technologies, and the framing of rights-based approaches to ICT governance to help Commonwealth governments achieve their objectives while meeting their international human rights obligations.

PARALLEL SESSION D

Best Practices on Elections Reporting: When Stakeholders Come Together

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 15:00
Conference Room 5

FORMAT
Interview style

SPEAKERS
Kofi Boakye
Commissioner of Police in charge of Research, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation at the Ghana Police Headquarters

Yesufu Kemi Onyekachi
Journalist

Simbiso Marimbe
Programme Manager, International Media Support

Joyce Laetitia Kazembe
Commissioner, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission

Vivian Affoah
Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression at the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)

Tore Bergsaker
Investigative Journalist, fact checker and founder of Norwegian fact-checking initiative, Faktisk.no

MODERATOR
Jesper Højberg
Executive Director, International Media Support

ORGANIZERS
Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) / International Media Support (IMS)

SUMMARY

This panel organized by International Media Support (IMS) and Media Foundation West Africa (MFWA) looks at global media development efforts that have succeeded in strengthening media actors in their coverage of elections. The challenges facing media, authorities and citizens during elections are plentiful - from the digital spread of disinformation to freedom of press issues, and a lack of trust between media and authorities, including security actors. But the list of good practices seeking to pave the way for good journalism in the face of these challenges is also long. In this session we hear from both police and journalists from Ghana and Nigeria on how improving relations between the two helped support peaceful elections and better journalism. In Zimbabwe, a comprehensive media elections programme strengthened both the capacity and content of media towards the 2018 elections.

Best practices are shared on the programme and on the performance of the media as seen from the Zimbabwe Elections Commission. Norway's public service broadcaster along with two of the country's biggest newspapers have come together to create Faktisk.no, a fact checking unit. Faktisk.no cooperated closely with Facebook to fight disinformation during the country's elections. From Ghana MFWA's experience with an elections-related language monitoring project that focused on the issue of media and hate speech during elections, conflict sensitive reporting will be shared.

PARALLEL SESSION E

Media and Information Literacy for Peace and Resilience Building

TIME AND VENUE
15:30 - 17:00
Conference Room 5

FORMAT
Participatory storytelling

SPEAKERS
Jingxin Bao
UNESCO IICBA

Dawit Endeshaw
Journalist

Sylvain Platevoet
Programme and International Development Manager, Cartooning for Peace

Ali Ghamir
Editorial Cartoonist

Nadia Khiari
Teacher in Visual Arts, Painter and Cartoonist; Creator of Willis from Tunis

Isabel Boavida
Cultural Attaché, Portugal Embassy in Ethiopia

Daniel Ergetachew
Graphic Designer, UNESCO IICBA

MODERATOR
Yumiko Yokozeki
Director, UNESCO IICBA

ORGANIZERS
Embassy of Portugal to Ethiopia / UNESCO – IICBA

SUMMARY

We are all surrounded by massive flows of information today. The Internet and social media have ushered in an era of unprecedented connectivity. Words and images are widespread and powerful, which can be a double-edge sword: some arouse us to love and some trigger us to hate. Influenced by malicious messages online, many young people become violent and extreme and disseminate these messages to negatively influence even more youth. However, parents and educators often find themselves struggling to effectively address these worrying developments as they do not interact with the digital age as the youth do today.

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) enables people to interpret and make informed judgments as users of information and media, as well as to become skillful creators and producers of information and media messages in their own right. It contributes to peace and resilience building by empowering people, in a digital society, to understand, inquire, create, communicate and think critically, effectively and responsibly with ethical, cultural and social understanding. It is crucial for young people and teachers of the 21st century to be equipped with MIL.

UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) has devoted itself in teacher development and youth empowerment for peace and resilience building in Africa. In collaboration with the Embassies of Portugal in Ethiopia and Cartoon for Peace, UNESCO IICBA is organizing a side event in celebration of the World Press Freedom Day in 2019. Practitioners and youth are invited to this event to spark thought-provoking and far-reaching conversations on how our world is shaped by social media and how MIL can help to build peaceful and resilient societies for youth today and tomorrow.

PARALLEL SESSION F

Media and Elections in Africa

TIME AND VENUE
15:30 - 17:00
Conference Room 6

FORMAT
Interactive debate

SPEAKERS
Grace Githaiga
Co-Convenor, Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet)

David Kaye
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Dinah Kituyi
Executive Director, IREX Kenya, Regional Lead – Securing Access to Free Expression – East Africa

Regina Opondo
Executive Director, Elections Observation Group (ELOG)

Speaker from ARTICLE19 (TBC)

MODERATOR
Rachael Nakitare
Acting Television Programmes Manager, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

ORGANIZERS
IREX – SAFE EA / KICTANet

SUMMARY

The Special Rapporteur will offer perspectives of use of online spaces during elections.

IREX: The Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE) Project will share tips on election coverage based on a case study of Kenya 2017 general elections on physical, digital and psychosocial safety and security and the role of solidarity in the awake of democracy and civil unrest.

KICTANET: The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) observed the use of ICTs before, during and after Kenya's 2017 General Elections. Some aspects observed and which are relevant to media and freedom of expression included access to election information by citizens as well as use of online spaces during the electioneering period. Further, ways in which fake news and disinformation were used by both the ruling party and the opposition to suit their needs were evaluated.

The KICTANet observer mission particularly observed use of the Kenya Integrated Elections Management Systems (KIEMS) from a user perspective during the elections, and how sometimes the media reported from a point of misconception or lack of understanding.

KICTANet proposes to hold this session during the WPFD, to mainly share experiences on what tech based electoral observation constitutes, discuss the gaps and lessons learnt in particular on issues of access to information, fake news and disinformation, and how the media can also strengthen is reporting during such events. This is important in particular for the media in countries that will be holding general election, as well as using technology in the next two years.

DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOP

on Interactive Communications between the African Union and Citizens

TIME AND VENUE
09:00 - 17:00
Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Participation by invitation only
Workshop is open for a maximum of 40 participants

Focal points:
Ibrahim Bukunle (Sanusil@africa-union.org) and Wynne Musabayana (MUSABAYANAW@africa-union.org)

ORGANIZER
African Union / GIZ

SUMMARY

The Design Thinking Workshop on Interactive Communications between the AU and Citizens is conceptualized as an open space for civic innovation hub and start-ups, media hubs and new and traditional media enthusiasts and journalists, to come together and ideate solutions to assist the African Union in enhancing its interaction with African citizens. Using a design thinking methodology, participants will emphatise, design and conceive protoype ideas that will bring the citizens closer to the AU and vice versa and tackle disinformation all over Africa.

The prototype ideas may contribute to any of the following areas:
- Popularisation of AU Shared Values Instruments
- Fact-based media reporting and citizens journalism
- African Union – Citizens Interaction and Engagement

It is expected that the participants will come up with ideas for digital interaction formats/tools, audio-visual content/campaigns or mobile applications.

The main goal of the Workshop is to facilitate an innovation-driven space to create ideas that enhances citizens interaction and engagement with the African Union. The expected outcome of the Workshop is a portfolio of idea prototypes that can be developed or scaled by the AU.

The Workshop is organized by the AUC Directorate of Information and Communication and the AGA Secretariat with technical and financial support from the GIZ/AU Citizens Engagement Lab Programme.

CLOSED SESSIONS
30 APRIL - 3 MAY

30 APRIL

ONLINE HARASSMENT WORKSHOP & ROUNDTABLE:
MAPPING STRATEGIES FOR FIGHTING BACK.

TIME AND VENUE
09:00 - 12:00, 30 April
Large Briefing Room
UNECA

FORMAT
Closed meeting
by invitation only

ORGANIZER
PEN America

1 MAY

MEDIA REFORM IN ETHIOPIA:
A CONSULTATION FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

TIME AND VENUE
09:00 - 17:00, 1 May
Conference Room 2
UNECA

FORMAT
Closed meeting

ORGANIZER
CIMA

WORKSHOP ON ARTISTIC FREEDOM

TIME AND VENUE
10:00 - 18:00. 1 May
Large Briefing Room
UNECA

FORMAT
Closed meeting
Capacity-development workshop open only to Ethiopian nationals on UNESCO's invitation

ORGANIZER
UNESCO

2 MAY

TEAM MEETING, INTERRUPTRR AFRICA

TIME AND VENUE
13:00 - 15:15, 2 May
AUC

FORMAT
Closed meeting

ORGANIZER
European Journalism Centre

FREE CITY TOURS !
(HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA)

30 APRIL (AFTERNOON)
4 MAY (MORNING)

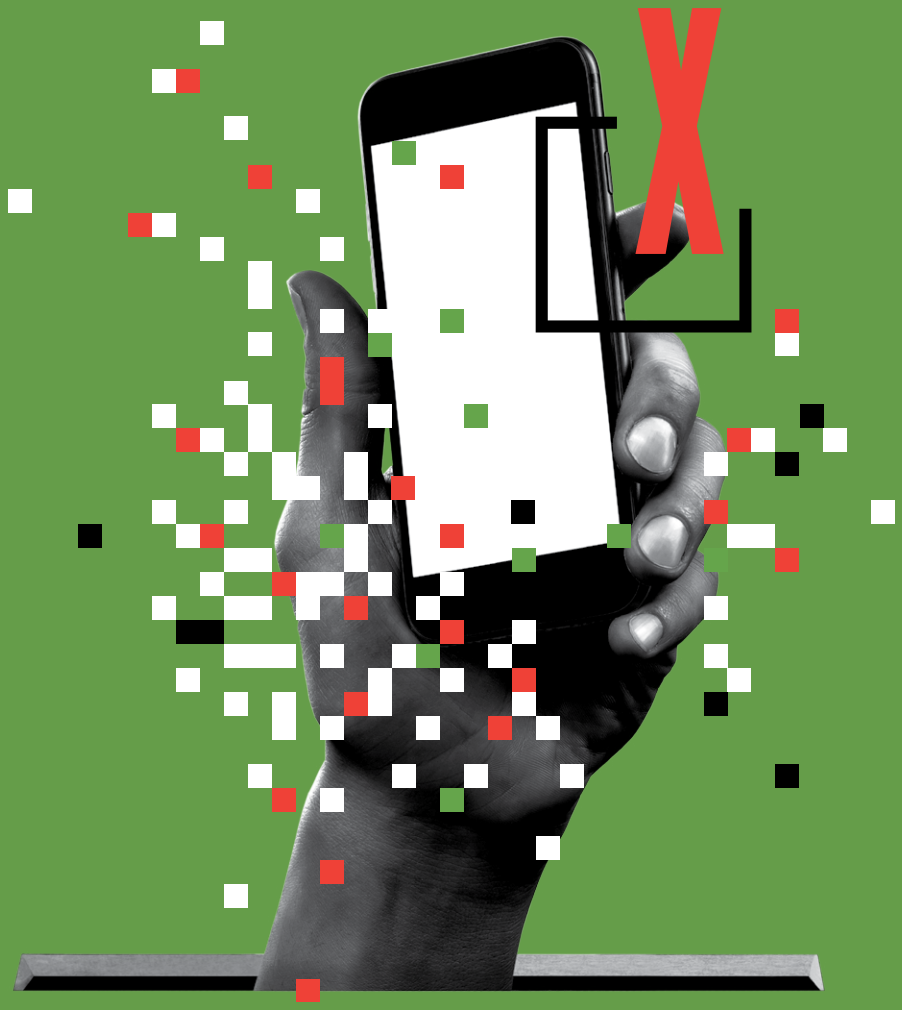
REGISTER!
CONTACT: WPFD@FLAWLESSEVENTS.NET

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:
EN.UNESCO.ORG/COMMEMORATIONS/WORLDPRESSFREEDOMDAY

#WORLDPRESSFREEDOMDAY #PRESSFREEDOM

MAY 2

VENUE: AFRICAN UNION HQ



OPENING CEREMONY AND PLENARY SESSION 1

Strengthening Media's Role in the Face of New Challenges

OPENING CEREMONY
09:30 - 10:15

WELCOME REMARKS BY

Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, UNESCO

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, African Union Commission / H.E. Thomas Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission

H. E. Sahle-Work Zewde, The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

TIME AND VENUE
10:15 - 12:00
Nelson Mandela Hall

FORMAT
Panel discussion

French interpretation provided

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Tsedale Lemma
Editor-in-chief of Addis Standard

PLENARY SPEAKERS
Wambui Kiai
Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Nairobi

Jonathan Munro
Head of Newsgathering, BBC

Nadia Khiari
Press cartoonist, Cartooning for Peace, creator of Willis from Tunis

Afrah Nasser
Blogger, winner of CPJ's International Press Freedom Award 2017

MODERATOR
Hiba Morgan
Producer and Journalist, Al Jazeera

SUMMARY

Hostile discourse and anti-media rhetoric in several countries have led the UN Human Rights Council to express alarm "at instances in which political leaders, public officials and/or authorities denigrate, intimidate or threaten the media [...] which increases the risk of threats and violence and undermines public trust in the credibility of journalism". Furthermore, disinformation campaigns have led to a slump in public trust in the media. In the face of these challenges, it is important to discuss how media can push back and counter such attacks against the free press.

This plenary will examine the impact of anti-media rhetoric as well as disinformation campaigns on freedom of expression. Furthermore, it will seek to identify ways in which public trust in journalism can be strengthened so that the media can be a catalyzer of peace, gender equality, democracy and the rule of law.

Questions discussed will include:
• What can be done to counter rhetorical attacks on journalism?
• How can public trust in the media be strengthened?
• What can journalists, internet companies and fact-checking initiatives do in order to counter disinformation and uphold fact-based political debate?
• What partnerships are possible to raise media and information literacy?

PARALLEL SESSION 1

Artificial Intelligence, Journalism, and Press Freedom in Times of Elections

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 15:00, 2 May
Medium Conference Room

FORMAT
Experts' discussion

PANEL
Terens Quick
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Lifaqane Nare
Researcher, fact-checking organization ZimFact

Michael J. Oghia
Advocacy & Engagement Manager, Global Fund for Media Development

Elena Abrusci
Senior Research Officer, Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project, Human Rights Centre and School of Law, University of Essex

Nnenna Nwakanma
Interim Policy Director, World Wide Web Foundation

MODERATOR
Eric Johnson
Independent Expert and Consultant

ORGANIZERS
International Media Support (IMS) / UNESCO

SUMMARY

Developments in artificial intelligence (AI) affect the way journalistic content is produced, disseminated, and consumed; thus (re)shaping the communications landscape and impacting on media freedom, including in critical times such as elections. AI can strengthen the free flow of information and journalistic activity, but it can also be used to replace human journalistic work as well as amplify both disinformation - that is, deliberately constructed falsehoods - and misinformation - which lacks malicious intent. Among the most debated issues to be considered will be:

- The harnessing of AI to create and/or amplify disinformation, meaning fraudulent information (often in news formats) that is intended for political objectives and often to create confusion or to discredit verifiable journalistic reports;
- The fact that AI is already replacing relatively simple, fixed-format article-writing jobs (especially in the field of financial journalism), alternatively impacting on journalists' job security or freeing journalists up to do higher end work in interpretation, analysis, verification and presentation of news;
- The implications of automated news writing/production without human intervention or supervision as a reality that is often hidden to the readers/audience, which thus poses deontological issues (as well as others related to authorship and liability);
- Media organizations increasing reliance on algorithms, and media content production that is increasingly informed by analytical and decision-making accorded to sophisticated algorithms as well;
- The impact of counterfeit media brands, fake accounts and "deepfake" content in time of elections;
- The pervasiveness of automated trolling, which has consequences for journalists' safety.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

AU Protocol/Declaration/Working Group on the Safety of Journalists

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 15:00, 2 May
Conference Room 2

FORMAT
Highlights by UNESCO on Addis recommendations on Safety of Journalists Coordination Mechanisms in Africa at the continental, Regional and National level.

Presentations by African Union status of AU Declaration and Working Group on Safety of Journalists.

Highlight on global concerns on safety of journalists and good practices by United Nations special rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression.

Highlights from AU/APRM on safety of journalists indicators.

Interactive discussion with the audience.

French interpretation provided

MODERATOR
Felicia Anthonio
Coordinator, the African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX),

FOCUS AREAS
Safety of Journalists Coordination, Mechanisms in Africa at the continental, Regional and National level as per the Addis recommendations , AU Working Group on Safety of Journalists , AU draft protocol/ declaration on Safety of Journalists.

ORGANIZERS
African Union Commission / UNESCO and Safety of Journalists stakeholders in Africa / African Union Peer Review Mechanism

SUMMARY

Background:
Participants at the Interregional Forum held at the UNECA in Addis Ababa on November 26-27, 2018 under the theme "Strengthening National Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists in Africa in the realisation of Agenda 2063 Aspiration 3 and Agenda 2030 SDG 16.10.1" agreed to a establish coordination mechanism at the Continental, Sub regional and National Level as follows:

At the Continental Level:
They called on the African Union (AU) and UNESCO to work together, in collaboration with other interested stakeholders, to develop the AU Working Group on Safety of Journalists into an operational, multi-stakeholder framework for a robust Coordination Mechanism that brings together the relevant public sector actors and other media stakeholders in Africa. To this end, the participants called on UNESCO and AU to move expeditiously to:

1. Establish a representative technical working group to develop a draft blueprint for the Coordination Mechanism to be housed at the AU.
2. Conduct broad consultations, including in the five regions of Africa, with relevant stakeholders with a view to ensuring that all views are taken into account and that the Coordination Mechanism secures the buy-in of AU Member States.
3. Take the necessary steps to formalise and establish the Coordination Mechanism.

At the Sub-regional Level:
Called on the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO and lead organisations on safety of journalists to affirm and continue to develop, and where needed to establish, sub-regional mechanisms on safety of journalists which are multi-stakeholder in nature and which have a broad remit to take operational actions to support safety. To this end, participants call Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO and lead organisations on safety of journalists to:-

1. Make reference to the Addis Resolution adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 November 2017.
2. Put in place a robust, consultative process to formalise the establishment of a safety in mechanism in each sub-region.
3. Work with the national safety mechanisms that exist in the respective sub-region, including through the focal points, to coordinate activities in support of journalists' safety.
4. Provide support to national safety mechanisms, including by supporting the establishment of such mechanisms in countries where they do not yet exist.

At the National Level:
Called on each AU Member State, in consultation with interested stakeholders, to establish effective, multi-stakeholder national mechanisms for the safety of journalists, taking into account their different country contexts. When forming these national mechanisms, consideration should be given to engaging the following actors: all three arms of government including security actors and other administration of justice actors, civil society actors working in this area, representative bodies of journalists, media workers and media outlets, lawyers' associations, human rights defenders, journalism training and research institutions, media regulatory bodies, NGOs, INGOs, relevant inter-governmental organisations, including United Nations agencies, and other representatives of the international community.

PARALLEL SESSION 3

Journalism under the Firing Line: Facing the Challenges of Covering Elections in the Digital Age

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 15:00, 2 May
Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Panel discussion

SPEAKERS
Zied Dabbar
Head, Monitoring Unit on Protection of Journalists, Tunisian Journalists Union (SNJT)

Tayo
Cartoonist, Cartooning For Peace

Charles Erick Oduor
Journalist, Nation Media Group, Kenya. Secretary General, KUJ

Maria Luisa Carvalho Rogerio
Reporter, Jornal do Angola; Secretary General, Sindicato dos Jornalistas Angolanos

Peter Quaqua
President, West Africa Journalists Association; Liberian journalist and trainer; Former head, Press Union of Liberia

Pa Louis Thomasi
Director, IFJ Africa

MODERATORS
Jeremy Dear
Deputy General Secretary, International Federation of Journalists; Former Head, NUJ (UK and Ireland)

Sadiq Ibrahim
President, Federation of African Journalists

ORGANIZERS
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) / Federation of African Journalists (FAJ)

SUMMARY

Bringing together frontline reporters with media owners, political cartoonists, safety experts and journalists representatives, this session will not only look at the threats posed by violence and harassment against journalists and media during election periods but also at the work being done to defend and promote fair and quality coverage.

With elections due to be held in 2019 in Cameroon Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Gabon and others, the session will speak to journalists at the forefront of the challenge of covering the contests. From the impact – both negative and potentially positive - of the internet and social media, to the hostile discourse of politicians, stigmatizing of the media and the targeting of independent journalists and media, participants will consider:

- The impact of political targeting including internet and media shutdowns and violence against journalists
- The opportunities and threats posed by digital media - confronting disinformation strategies
- Satire under attack
- The challenge of regulation in the digital age

Key to all the contributions will also be to show positive examples of action to support fair election coverage and/or training and resources to build improved coverage. The session will also consider such issues in the context of traditional and digital media, as well as the threats to satirists and cartoonists. Encouraging active audience participation will also crowdsource ideas for ways to combat the challenge.

PARALLEL SESSION 4

Media, Public Trust, and the Crisis of Democracy

TIME AND VENUE
15:30 - 17:00, 3 May
Medium Conference Room

FORMAT
Round table

SPEAKERS
Oby Ezekwesili
Public Policy Analyst / Senior Economic Advisor, AEDPI and Co-Founder of #BringBackOurGirls Movement

Stephen King
CEO, Luminate

Christine Stegling
Executive Director, Frontline AIDS

Agnes Igoye
Ugandan Deputy National Coordinator Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Founder of the Dream Revival Center

MODERATOR
Gwen Lister
Executive Chair, Namibia Media Trust

ORGANIZERS
PROJECT SYNDICATE / Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) / European Journalism Centre (EJC)

SUMMARY

An independent press is the lifeblood of healthy, inclusive, and democratic societies. It plays a paramount role across myriad sectors, from governance to science to economics and the arts. This session, composed of academics, politicians, and development experts – professionals working outside of the media sphere – will discuss the value of an independent press and the free flow of information for their work, and explore how we can address the current challenges to press freedom around the world.

PARALLEL SESSION 5

Electoral practitioners' responses to new challenges related to information flows in protecting the integrity of elections

TIME AND VENUE
15:30 - 17:00, 2 May
Small conference room 2

FORMAT
Roundtable

French interpretation provided

PART 1
SPEAKERS
Nouri Lajmi
President of the Tunisian Haute Autorité Indépendante de la Communication Audiovisuelle

Gianpiero Catozzi
UNDP/Brussels

Chiara Adamo
Head of Unit - Gender, Human Rights and Democratic Governance EU/DGIC

Ahmad Djauhar
Vice Chairman of Press Council of Indonesia

Gregoire Ndjaka
CEO of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB)

CO-MODERATORS:
Betrand Levant
Programme Specialist, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Anna Katulu
Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

PART 2
SPEAKERS
Siaka Sangaré
General Delegate for Elections in Mali / President of the Réseau des compétences électorales francophones (RECEF)

Hussein Abdi Aden
Somalia Electoral Management Board

Anne Lawson
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer - Election Canada

CO-MODERATORS:
Najia Hashemee
UNDP

Therese Pearce-Laanela
Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

SUMMARY

The Internet has enabled electoral practitioners (Electoral Management Bodies - EMBs, media and their independent regulatory systems, electoral observers) to engage interactively with each other and with citizens throughout the electoral cycle. The right to information has been strengthened through digital information access. However, in recent years, there have also been large-scale Internet disruptions (for example, shutdowns or arbitrary throttling, arbitrary blocking and filtering of online current) which undermine the trust and confidence of voters in the electoral process. Micro-targeting based on personal data, automated messaging through chatbots, fake accounts, digital marketing techniques, the creation of echo-chambers and filter bubbles, and the rapid dissemination of disinformation have been criticized for manipulating people's choice in voting.

As a continuously evolving digital environment intensifies or poses new challenges in protecting the integrity of elections, this session will examine some of the responses by electoral practitioners. By facilitating the exchange of experiences among different stakeholders across regions, it will serve to identify good practices in facing emerging risks and supporting free, fair, transparent and peaceful electoral processes.

ORGANIZERS
UNESCO / UNDP/ International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance / AUC / African Union of Broadcasters / Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

PARALLEL SESSION 6

True Story..? A Verification Quiz Show

TIME AND VENUE
15:30 - 17:00, 2 May
Small conference room 3

FORMAT
Quiz show

SPEAKERS
Hadra Ahmed Ibrahim
Freelance Journalist

Kwami Ahiabenu
Founder, Penplusbytes

Myriam Redondo Escudero
Freelance Journalist & Verification Coach

Naglaa Elemary
Consultant/Lecturer, Jordan Media Institute

MODERATOR
Chrispin Mkakideu
Multimedia Journalist, Deutsche Welle

ORGANIZER
Deutsche Welle Akademie (DWA)

SUMMARY

All of us are challenged by fake news and disinformation spreading online. This is especially true in times of elections, when citizens rely on trustworthy and verified information in order to be able to make informed decisions. On social media posts can spread like wildfire – but how can users verify if what they see or read is actually true? DW Akademie brings „True story ...?“, a verification quiz show, to World Press Freedom Day 2019 – to shed some light on the darkness, and discuss this pressing topic in an interactive way.

This serious game combines informative, as well as competitive aspects. The gamers (session audience) will be presented with a series of text passages, photos and videos by the quiz master – they will then vote if they believe what they see is fake or true via the quiz-app. The results of each vote will be shown on a big screen, most likely revealing some surprises. The quiz master will be accompanied by several international experts providing context and input for selected questions and answers: They will give advice on how to identify disinformation and fake news; provide insights into latest approaches to verify digital content; share experiences from social media trackers during elections periods; and show the difference media literacy can make.

PARALLEL SESSION 7

The Role of Media in Promoting Good Governance Trough the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

TIME AND VENUE
13:30 - 17:30
Caucus Room

FORMAT
Closed meeting
Rountable

SPEAKERS
Grace Githaiga
Member of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television, IWART- Kenya Chapter

Migai Akech
Governance Expert, APRM

Goretti Linda Nassanga
Senior Lecturer, Makerere University

Gabriel Baglo

Ozias Sounouvou
News Anchor

Isaac Khaguli Esipisu
Media and Strategic Communications Professional

Media Expert at Rwanda Governance Board (TBC)

MODERATORS
Emmanuel K. Bensah
Journalist

Ivan Mugisha
Journalist

ORGANIZER
African Union Peer Review Mechanism with Africa Media Stakeholders

SUMMARY

The African Peer Review Mechanism's purpose is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.

The APRM embodies the principle of shared values and advocacy as well as of accountability, integrity and inclusivity. Hence, members of the media have a critical role to play in promoting these principles. The APRM also recognises that the media has the power to influence decisions and their implementation as well as advocate for good governance practises. Therefore, the Media represents a strategic ally for the APRM in terms of achieving its goals and it is critical for the APRM to partner with organisations that share common values particularly in relation to human rights inclusive of media freedom.

In order to advance and promote the "Africa We Want", the APRM is hoping to further involve media within its processes. This will require the APRM to engage the different players in the media landscape continentally in order to identify challenges faced by media and formulate recommendations that can be implemented by countries.

The objective of the APRM-Media Roundtable is to conceptualize the APRM-Media Forum while looking at ways to forge and strengthen APRM collaboration with Media in the interest of improving good governance on the Continent.

UNESCO/GUILLERMO CANO WORLD PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER - BY INVITATION ONLY

TIME AND VENUE
19:00 - 22:00, 2 May
Doors open: 18:30
Sheraton Hotel

Audrey Azoulay
Director-General, UNESCO

H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed
Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat,
Chairperson, African Union Commission

H.E. Thomas Kwesi Quartey,
Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission

Zoe Titus
Strategic Coordinator, Namibia Media Trust

Maria José Cano
Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation

Thura Aung
Representing 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Laurates

Followed by a cultural performance

SPONSORS
UNESCO
Helsingin Sanomat Foundation
Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation
Namibia Media Trust

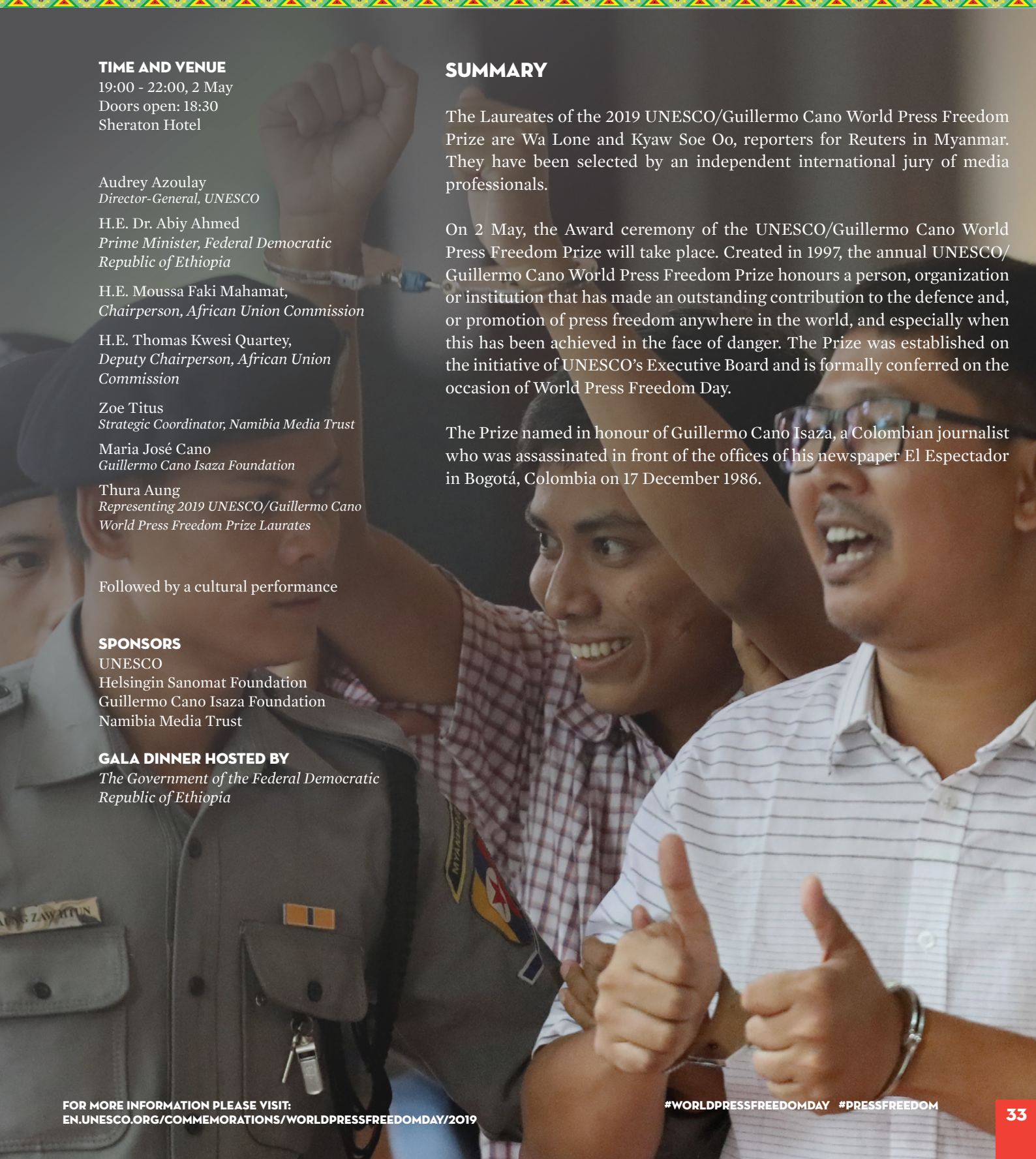
GALA DINNER HOSTED BY
The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

SUMMARY

The Laureates of the 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize are Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, reporters for Reuters in Myanmar. They have been selected by an independent international jury of media professionals.

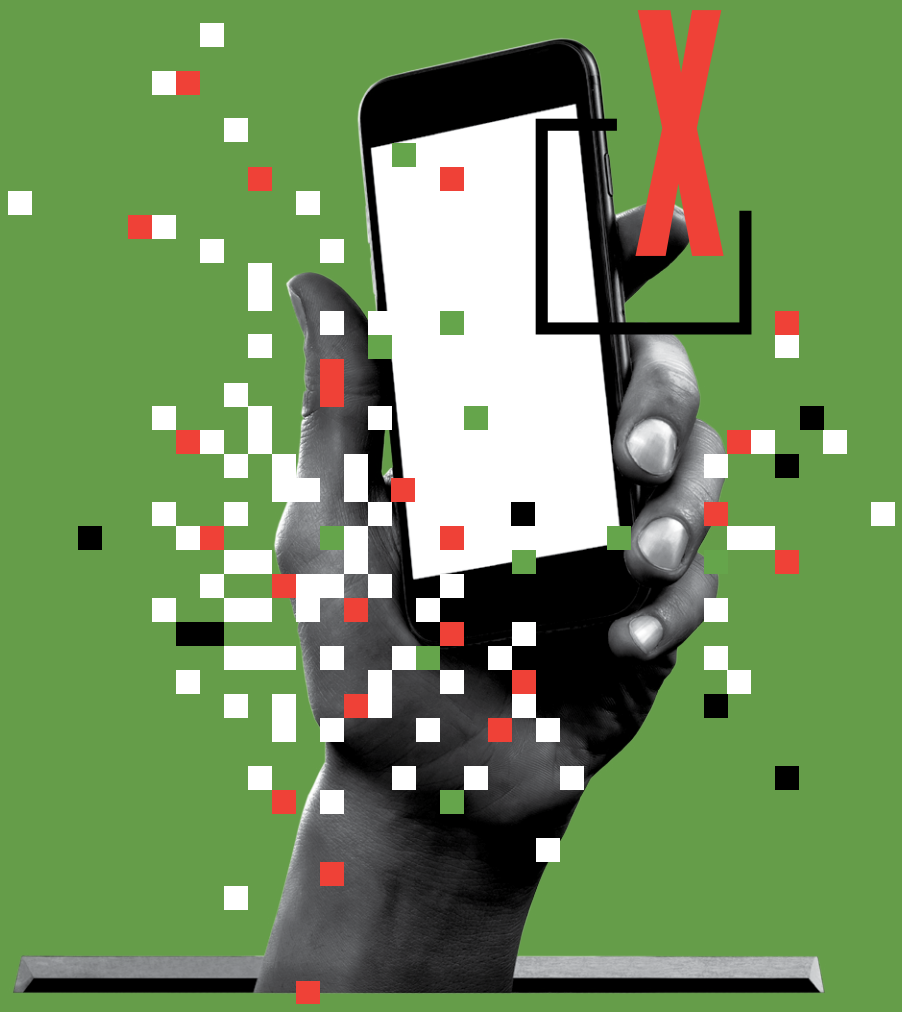
On 2 May, the Award ceremony of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize will take place. Created in 1997, the annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, and especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger. The Prize was established on the initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board and is formally conferred on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

The Prize named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia on 17 December 1986.



MAY 3

VENUE: AFRICAN UNION HQ



PLENARY SESSION 2

MEDIA, DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

TIME AND VENUE
11:00 - 12:30, 3 May
Nelson Mandela Hall

FORMAT
Panel Discussion

French interpretation provided

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Maria Ressa (video message)
CEO, Rappler

SPEAKERS
H.E. Birtukan Mideksa
Head of Elections Board (Ethiopia)

Adebayo Olukoshi
Regional Director for Africa and West Asia, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Other speakers to be announced

MODERATOR
Shaimaa Khalil
Journalist and Presenter, BBC World Service.

SUMMARY

The right to vote and the right to free expression, expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under Articles 21 and 19, are essential pillars of democratic systems. During election periods, both of these rights come into play, calling attention to their interplay. In democracies, voters should be enabled to make informed choices, based on a solid understanding of the contestants' political programs.

Warding off attempts by political actors to manipulate media has long been a hazard for the independent press, much aggravated in times of elections. In the internet age, electoral communications have become even more complex, leading to a range of challenges for the media. This panel will therefore feature a discussion on the importance of media freedom for democracy and on online and offline communications in times of elections.

Questions discussed will include:
• At what point do Internet disruptions compromise the integrity of an election to the extent that the exercise is fundamentally flawed?
• What are the risks of new technologies for communications during elections, and are there ways the media could harness these tools for improved electoral reporting?
• How can professional journalism play a more visible and distinctive role, and compete with emotive content, disinformation and private messaging during elections?
• How can electoral regulation preserve and protect the role of free, safe and independent journalism, and avoid measures that could damage such vital communication?

PARALLEL SESSION 8

Social Media Councils: A New Regulatory Model for Content Moderation in Global Perspective

TIME AND VENUE
09:30 - 11:00, 3 May
Medium Conference Room

FORMAT
Interactive Workshop

French interpretation provided

MODERATED BY
Thomas Hughes
Executive Director, ARTICLE 19

ORGANIZERS
Stanford University / ARTICLE 19

SUMMARY

ARTICLE 19 developed a concept for Social Media Councils, a new mechanism that would provide an open, transparent and accountable forum to deal with content moderation issues on social media platforms, which in our view would include all types of content. This multi-stakeholder body would be based on a Code of Principles based on international human rights law. The goal of the workshop is to submit the concept of the Social Media Council to a consultation that prioritizes input from stakeholders from the Global South.

The plan is to open the process of elaborating such a model, and to evaluate the feasibility and challenges of establishing such structures in specific countries or regions. Participants will hear a presentation on the model by ARTICLE 19, followed by short reactions from the panelists and short Q/A session with participants. After the main discussion, there will be several breakout groups on structure and process will be formed. The session will be fully interactive, structured around an open consultation process set by ARTICLE 19. The workshop will include and learn from stakeholders from the Global South in designing new governance mechanisms for social media platforms.

PARALLEL SESSION 9

Doing What It Takes: Making the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa Work

TIME AND VENUE
09:30 - 11:00, 3 May
Small Conference Room 2

FORMAT
Interactive fireside discussion

SPEAKERS
Kudakwashe T.Hove
Legal and ICT Policy Officer, Media Institute of Southern Africa

Ololade Shyllon
Human Rights Lawyer and Independent Consultant

Bethlehem Woldeyohannes
Media and Communications Consultant and Writer

Saikou Jammeh
Journalist and Media and Freedom of Expression Rights Advocate

MODERATOR
Sekoetlane Phamodi
Media Development and Public Policy Worker

ORGANIZER
fesmedia Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

SUMMARY

The implementation of coherent access to information frameworks and mechanisms in Africa has been a long-standing priority in the region, with important relevance for the electoral process. Without access to information throughout the elections cycle, the electorate is manifestly excluded from participation in these crucial political moments. This has direct implications for peace, security and stability.

To respond to this problem, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in 2017 produced its Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa which consolidates and updates other regional and national instruments. Notwithstanding its adoption, the credibility of recent elections in the region has been marred by violence, the restriction of speech and the functional means to access information about developments in elections. This has included the closure of media outlets, the detention of journalists and the intentional disruption of telecommunication services by State actors.

So why do these restrictions and repressions continue? What can be done to give life to the principles entailed in these guidelines to support democracy, peace and security? Are there working models or practices we can learn from to bring the various institutional role-players in the electoral process together to complement and cooperate with one another to facilitate free and fair elections? Or do these guidelines represent yet another set of standards and recommendations that have no prospect of substantive realisation?

PARALLEL SESSION 10

Towards Constructive Dialogue and Shared Narratives: Exploring Media's Role in Conflict-Prone Societies

TIME AND VENUE
09:30 - 11:00, 3 May
Small Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Panel discussion

SPEAKERS
Adi Renaldi
Journalist

Maung Saungkha
Executive Director, ATHAN

Shubhranshu Choudhary
TV and Radio Producer, BBC's South Asia Bureau

Gayathry Venkiteswaran
PhD Candidate, Assistant Professor, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Bruh Yihunbelay Mengistu
Managing Editor, The Reporter

Julieta Alipala
Reporter, the Philippine Daily Inquirer

MODERATOR
Tess Bacalla
Executive Director, SEAPA

ORGANIZER
South East Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA)

SUMMARY

Amid the spread of hate speech, rising religious intolerance, and conflict in today's societies, including among ethnic groups, and the polarizing and corrosive impact of state-driven disinformation and divisive rhetoric peddled by both state and non-state actors, the media must step up to the plate and take advantage of any remaining civic space to expand civil discourse and build constructive engagements between sectors of society. This, through carefully thought-out, impartial, and fact-based reportage that will inform and enrich public dialogue. There's no gainsaying the transformative power of dialogue, mediated by independent and pluralistic media that amplify the voices of citizens, particularly marginalized groups, and lift the veil on complex issues that cause disharmony.

It may be argued that this is hardly achievable, given the realities of today's media landscape and the repressive environment confronting many journalists. Yet it must be explored (or enhanced where it is already happening to any extent), because the media is expected to play a role in peace promotion and conflict resolution, and contributes to building democracy.

Against the backdrop of today's information disorder that foments conflict, how can the media encourage more meaningful public conversations and bring about collective narratives that will help unite people, their differences, notwithstanding, and heal divisions in society?

PARALLEL SESSION 11

Understanding Electoral Information Flows: Mapping the Impact of Digital Technology from Network Disruptions to Disinformation

TIME AND VENUE
14:00 - 15:30, 3 May
Medium Conference Room

FORMAT
Panel discussion

French interpretation provided

SPEAKERS
Andreas Reventlow
Programme Manager, International Media Support (IMS)

Emilar Gandhi
Public Policy Manager, Facebook

Abel Wabella
Managing Editor / Founder, Gobena Street / Addis Zebye

Muthoki Mumo
Sub-Saharan Africa Representative, Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ)

Juliet Nanfuka
Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

MODERATOR
Jason Pielemeier
Policy Director, Global Network Initiative

ORGANIZER
Global Network Initiative (GNI)

SUMMARY

Under the theme of "How the digital era is affecting electoral communications," the Global Network Initiative (GNI) proposed this session to build off of our successful collaboration with UNESCO to develop the February 2018 colloquium on "Improving the Communication and Information Ecosystem to Protect the Integrity of Elections." This session brings together a range of digital rights and media experts from diverse stakeholder communities to map the different ways that digital technology impacts election-relevant information flows, as well as the inter-relationships between these impacts. We will use this session to develop a systems and data flowchart that can help policy makers, companies, elections administrators, elections observers, media, and other stakeholders identify and mitigate risks, improve planning and coordination, and enhance transparency around their efforts to support elections.

PARALLEL SESSION 12

Cartooning for Peace and Democracy: Artistic Freedom and Freedom of Expression at the Tip of the Pen

TIME AND VENUE
14:00 - 15:30, 3 May
Small Conference Room 2

FORMAT
Panel session + live drawing

SPEAKERS
Zohoré
Cartooning for Peace ambassador for Côte d'Ivoire

Brandan
Editorial cartoonist, South Africa

Yemsrach Yetneberk
Cartoonist, Ethiopia

Alaa Satir
Cartoonist, Sudan

Lars Refn
Press cartoonist, Denmark

Zunar
Cartoonist, Malaysia

Xavier Gorce
Press cartoonist, France

MODERATOR
Emeline Wuilbercq
Journalist, Correspondent, Le Monde

ORGANIZER
Cartooning for Peace / UNESCO

SUMMARY

For this edition of the World Press Freedom Day 2019, Cartooning for Peace reunites cartoonists from various horizons for an open discussion about the nature and role of press cartoon and the state of their profession nowadays. The session, organized in collaboration with the UNESCO, will shed light on the concepts of freedom of the press, freedom of expression and artistic freedom in democratic debate, mainly in an electoral context.

The session will be punctuated by testimonies from those whose work and violations they face make them true "barometers of freedom of expression". Live drawing and projection of drawings from all over the world, thus allowing a lively and interactive exchange, will accompany the session.

PARALLEL SESSION 13

Enabling Freedom of Information: What can the SDG agenda mean for you?

TIME AND VENUE
14:00 - 15:30, 3 May
Small Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Panel discussion with storytelling

SPEAKERS
Peggy Hicks
Director, UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

Alistair King-Smith
Coordinator of the UK Foreign Office's Global Campaign for Media Freedom

Mardiyah Chamim
Senior Editor, Tempo Institute and its former Executive Director

Yemsrach Yetneberk
Cartoonist

Pansy Tlakula
South African Information regulator and former special rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information to the African Commission

Mohammed Adow
International Correspondent, Al Jazeera

MODERATOR
Leon Willems
Director, Free Press Unlimited (FPU)

ORGANIZER
Free Press Unlimited (FPU)

SUMMARY

Access to Information (ATI) laws enable journalists to have access to information held by public bodies for their reporting. It is a crucial tool for journalists to request information about government policies and their implementation, which can lead to more transparency and accountability of (local) governance. It can for instance lead to the disclosure of information about environmental contamination. Unfortunately, journalists often face challenges in accessing information from public bodies because these do not cooperate or label the information as confidential on arbitrary grounds.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an unique opportunity in this regard. SDG target 16.10 creates the obligation for states to guarantee and strengthen the right to access to information on a national level. All 193 UN Member States have committed themselves to these SDGs. During this panel, Free Press Unlimited (FPU) wants to showcase the added value of ATI-laws for the reporting of journalists and to stress that SDGS are a good entry point for journalists to advocate for well-functioning ATI-laws.

PARALLEL SESSION 14

Press Freedom in Ethiopia – Before and After the Transition

TIME AND VENUE
16:00 - 17:30, 3 May
Medium Conference Room

FORMAT
Panel discussion followed by Q&A session

Amharic and French interpretation provided

ORGANIZER
Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters (AEB), UNDP and UNESCO

SUMMARY

Ethiopia is undergoing significant transformation since 2018. With a new PM in power, Ethiopia witnessed a wave of changes including: lifting a state of emergency; releasing of politicians and journalists from prison and announcing to broaden political space; announcing the opening of the space for freedom of speech and improving the environment for the media to work independently and freely. These included unblocking of more than 260 websites, media outlets, including blogs, radio and TV channels that had been previously banned and reforming the laws that claimed to have adverse impacts on the free exercise of speech and journalism including the anti-terrorism, mass media and access to information and CSO laws among others. Legal advisory teams have been set up and are working on revising the stated laws.

As the result of these steps, positive developments are witnessed in this short period. However, there are also reports that indicate concerns that might limit consolidation of an open media environment. The lack of self-regulation in the media, fake news on the social media, polarization of debates etc requires scrutiny.

Parallel Session 13 will feature Ethiopia's aspiration in opening up the freedom of expression and media freedom and portray the current space in relation to the pre-2018 (reform) period and implicated the ongoing reforms and media practices to understand better the situation and direct further intervention for a sustainable and vibrant media environment in the country.

PARALLEL SESSION 15

Enlarging Choices: Artistic Freedom and Diversity of Contents

TIME AND VENUE
16:00 - 17:30, 3 May
Small Conference Room 2

FORMAT
Short film screening + panel discussion

SPEAKERS
Danielle Cliche
Chief of Section of Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Secretary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO

Brahim El Mazned
Director of Visa for Music festival

Hanok Mebratu
Film Director

Meaza Worku
Playwright

MODERATOR
Ole Reitov
Journalist and former Executive Director of Freemuse

ORGANIZER
UNESCO

SUMMARY

The potential of the media to promote peace and democracy relies not only on the freedom of expression ensured through pluralistic and independent media but also on the freedom to imagine and create diverse artistic or cultural expressions. Together, they can provide the content required for a diversity of narratives and a platform for a diversity of voices to be heard. Artists and other creative professionals working alongside journalists to bring transparency and clarity in the world of disinformation, are increasingly at risk and their environments are not safe. There is a recorded rise in violent attacks on artists, especially female artists, around the world. Without this safe space for creative expression, diversity of discourse and image is at risk. Against this background, it is key to keep focus on free, independent and pluralistic media and culture sectors. Ensuring diversity of content in cultural and media programming, and access to such diversity for all groups in society, is also fundamental. Artistic and creative expressions, as an integral part of the human right to freedom of creation and expression, are thus critical to the wellbeing of citizens, the stability of creative sectors and the functioning of democratic societies.

How can media professionals and cultural actors work together to raise awareness of their work to enable citizens to make informed decisions and to address the challenges that restrict their rights to freedom of expression and movement, artistic freedom and creative expression? How can they ensure inclusive participation to cultural life and wider circulation of ideas and creative goods through exchange and cooperation platforms?

PARALLEL SESSION 16

Keeping It On at Election Times: Navigating the Dilemma, Mapping Good Practices

TIME AND VENUE
16:00 - 17:30, 3 May
Small Conference Room 3

FORMAT
Panel discussion

SPEAKERS
Patrick Kimumwe
Senior Programme Officer – Research and Advocacy, CIPESA

Jason Pielemeier
Policy Director, Global Network Initiative (GNI)

Nnenna Nwakanma
Interim Policy Director, World Wide Web Foundation

Felicia Anthonio
Programme Associate. Media Foundation for West Africa

Solomon Goshu
Public Policy Advisor, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

MODERATOR
Juliet Nanfuka
Collaboration on International ICT Policy, East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

ORGANIZER
Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) / Access Now

SUMMARY

Many African countries have experienced internet shutdowns, often during election times, with governments citing the need to preserve public order and public security. The necessity to control fake news, misinformation, and hate speech are also cited in justifying access to the internet. However, these disruptions deny citizens access to information and undermine their freedom of expression. They are also a direct affront to media freedom, often undermining the ability of journalists to gather and impart information, to file reports, contact sources, or verify stories. This augurs badly for democracy, particularly at election time when journalists need to robustly play their watchdog role and citizens need access to a diverse pool of information to inform their decision-making.

This panel will map out the trends and implications of shutdowns on journalists, activists, and civil society organisations. Journalists, activists, and civil society representatives will also share their lived experiences, share tips for circumventing shutdowns, and discuss how to expand the network of advocates against internet shutdowns. Moreover, it will explore the dilemma of keeping it on during election times, and map best practices of how countries can keep communications on at contentious times such as during elections.

CLOSING SESSION

Adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration and Handover to 2020 Host of WPFD

TIME AND VENUE
17:45 - 18:30, 3 May
Mandela Hall

SPEAKERS
Moez Chakchouk
Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

H.E. Hans Wesseling
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to UNESCO

H.E. Amb. Kwesi Quartey
Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission

H.E. Gedu Andargachew
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

SUMMARY

On this occasion, the hosts of World Press Freedom Day 2019, the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission, will hand over the organization of the event to 2020 host country, The Netherlands.

During this closing session, the text of the Addis Ababa Declaration will be presented to participants for adoption.

CLOSING RECEPTION
Venue: Multipurpose Hall, African Union Commission

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The African Editors' Forum

African Peer Review Mechanism APRM

BBC

BBC Media Action — Transforming lives through media around the world

Cartooning for Peace — Dessins pour la paix

CIMA — Center for International Media Assistance

Ethiopian — የኢትዮጵያ — The New Spirit of Africa — A Star Alliance Member

EILCO

European Journalism Centre

FAJ — Federation of African Journalists — Fédération des Journalistes Africains

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung — fesmedia Africa

german cooperation — Deutsche Zusammenarbeit

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Fundación Guillermo Cano Isaza

Helsingin Sanomat Foundation

International Observatory of Human Rights

Interruptrr Africa

IREX

KICTAnet — Kenya ICT Action Network

Luminate — Building stronger societies

United Nations Human Rights — Office of the High Commissioner

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

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Universidad de Málaga

RTNERS!

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters

ami African Media Initiative

AUB African Union of Broadcasting Union Africaine de Radiodiffusion

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ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

ARTICLE 19

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FRANCE 24

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IFJ FIJ

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MFWA
MEDIA FOUNDATION FOR WEST AFRICA

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

nmit
Free speech for Africa

NLA Høgskolen | Gimlekollen mediehøgskolen

RECEF

SEAPA
Southeast Asian Press Alliance

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

UNDP

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

IICBA
International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

UNESCO CROSSINGS
Institute for Conflict-Sensitive Reporting and Intercultural Dialogue
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON-UNESCO CROSSINGS INSTITUTE

WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION

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