

40TH SESSION – UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE

DELEGATES INFORMATION BUREAU

CI COMMISSION

Date	19 November 2019	Room	XI
No. meeting	4	Hour	From: 3 pm. To: 4 pm.

Chairperson(s)	Christian Ter-Stepanian	Country	Armenia
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SUMMARY OF DEBATE(S)

Items examined	Items 3.1 and 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4), Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5),		
Debate no	1	Debate status	Continuation and conclusion
Related documents	Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) (40 C/11), Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5) (40 C/7), UNESCO towards 2030 and beyond: major challenges and opportunities (40 C/INF.18)		
DRs examined			
Countries that took floor	Norway, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Poland, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Austria, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Germany, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Sweden, Liberia, France, Armenia.		
Summary of debate	<p>The Chairperson re-opened the session on Item 3.1 and 3.2 and fifteen Delegations took the floor.</p> <p>Member States called on the Communication and Information Sector to advance a strong human-rights based approach in address emerging challenges in achieving sustainable development. These challenges relate to access to information, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists (including the threat against women journalists). Emphasis was also put on other challenges such as the rise of disinformation, the digital divide and artificial intelligence. Member States appreciated the work of the sector in contributing towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, but stressed the importance of SDG 5 and CI action that truly encourages gender-based changes. Mainstreaming Priority Africa further into the Communication and Information Programme was also highlighted.</p>		

Several Member States welcomed UNESCO's lead in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and its work in promoting indigenous languages and media and information literacy. The ROAM principles are also an important tool to Member States to address internet universality. Lastly, the importance of the role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) were also highlighted as well as the emphasis on documentary heritage through the Memory of the World Programme.

The ADG/CI took the floor to assure those delegations that took the floor that the Sector will pursue its action in the field of communication and information to address the issues highlighted. The representative of BSP also thanked the delegates for their interventions and reminded them on additional future possibilities to contribute to the programming exercise.

Finally, the President of the Commission thanked all concerned for the fruitful deliberations of the Commission and particularly thanked the CI Commission Secretariat team. The work of the Commission was closed.