

Draft decision on IPDC and the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

The Intergovernmental Council of IPDC,

Welcoming the fifth biennial Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity,

Deeply disturbed by the increase of acts of violence against journalists, media workers and social media producers who generate significant amounts of journalism in many parts of the world, including in countries which are not considered as conflict areas,

Welcoming the increased response rate to the Director-General's enquiries on judicial process, but also *concerned* at the continued rate of impunity as reflected in the Director-General's Report and the signal that this sends that violence against journalists can go unpunished,

Noting UNESCO's role in leading the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which encourages the development of national processes and mechanisms involving all stakeholders to achieve an environment for the safe exercise of free expression,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/68/163 (2013), A/RES/69/185 (2014); A/RES/70/162 (2015); *and recalling* the Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/RES/21/12 (2012), A/HRC/RES/27/5 (2014) and A/HRC/33/L.6 (2016); *and further recalling* the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1738 (2006) and 2222 (2015),

Recalling UNESCO Resolutions 29 C/29 (1997) and 36 C/53 (2011), as well as Executive Board Decision 196 EX/31 (2015),

Welcoming the UNESCO conference "News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals" with which IPDC was associated, as well as recent initiatives by media and civil society actors such as the International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists, the Global Safety Principles and Practices, and the proposal for a Special Representative on Safety in the Office of the UN Secretary-General,

Appreciating IPDC's role in decision by the UN Statistical Commission to recognize indicator 16.10.1, which reads: "Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months",

1. *Emphasizes* the ongoing relevance of the Decisions on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC at its 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th sessions in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 respectively, which urge Member States to continue "to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, on the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by the Director-General";

2. *Encourages* those countries that have not yet replied to the Director-General's requests for information on the judicial inquiries into killings of journalists, to consider responding;
3. *Reiterates* the relevance of requesting the Director-General of UNESCO to provide to the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC an analytical report on the killing of journalists, media workers and social media producers who are engaged in journalistic activities and who are killed in their line of duty, based on the Director-General's condemnations; including information on the judicial inquiries that is based on the information provided by Member States on a voluntary basis;
4. *Invites* the Director-General to further reinforce this analytical report by:
 - a. Also collecting information on actions taken by Member States to promote the safety of journalists and to combat impunity, as a way to share good practices;
 - b. Reinforcing IPDC data collection on killings and judicial process in order to provide these data as part of the UN's monitoring of SDG 16.10.1;
 - c. Strengthening data disaggregation in order to highlight the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work;
5. *Urges* Member States to monitor the safety of journalists as part of their national tracking of progress regarding the Sustainable Development Goal target 16.10, and to take appropriate action where needed;
6. *Encourages* IPDC to continue to support Member States in their reporting and monitoring mechanisms on journalists' safety and the issue of impunity;
7. *Endorses* the "IPDC Special Initiative on the Safety of Journalists: Future Strategy", presented at the 30th IPDC Council, as a defined contribution to UNESCO's leadership of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.
8. *Requests* the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC to continue to give priority to projects that further the objectives of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;
9. *Encourages* the Director-General and the Member States to increase their efforts in mobilizing additional extra-budgetary funding for the IPDC's work in the area of safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.