Dialogue with Permanent Delegations on the future Medium-Term Strategy (41 C/4)

Global, regional and cross-regional trends and initiatives

- **Global decline in freedom of expression**, **eroding trust** in the media, increased risks and **threats to journalists' safety**
  - 959 killings of journalists recorded between 2008 and 2018, 99 cases in 2018

- The **digital revolution** transforms our societies, but **digital and knowledge divides persist**

- **Disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence** call for **media and information literacy**

- **Recognition of the right to access information**, but **continued barriers for marginalized groups**

- Preservation and accessibility of **documentary heritage** contributes to achieving SDGS

Finding and recommendations of relevant UNESCO and international meetings and reports, as well as of recent audits evaluations

- *UNESCO should "continue to make maximum use of its special status as a UN body with the mandate to work on free speech and access to public information, by acting as a facilitator of dialogue between governments and local and international activist organizations."*
  - **External evaluation of the project on *Promoting democracy and freedom of expression* (2014-2017)**

- *"There is increasing demand for the organisation to demonstrate the intersectoral relevance of its work in communication and information and culture, which it is doing."*
  - **MOPAN 2017-2018 assessments report of UNESCO**

- *UNESCO's initiative on artificial intelligence can provide "space for debating norms and values."*
  - **Report of the UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (2019)**

Recalling global commitments and pertinent decisions taken by the governing bodies of UNESCO

- Freedom of expression, press freedom, access to information, safety of journalists
    - UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (– 2012)
    - SDG indicators 16.10.1 (safety of journalists) and 16.10.2 (access to information)
    - MoUs with regional courts of justice (2016 and 2018)

- Digital technologies for sustainable development and knowledge societies
    - Internet Universality and the ROAM principles (endorsed by GC in 2015)
    - World Summit on the Information Society process (2015 – 2025)
    - 40th session of the GC will consider an item on the ethics of AI (fall 2019)

- Universal access to and preservation of knowledge
    - *Recommendation Concerning the preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in digital form* (2015)
    - International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019)

Indicative questions for the dialogue

- In your view, what are/will be the key global, regional, or essential trends, opportunities and challenges of relevance to CI's mandate over the next 10 years?

- Where can you see opportunities for a more integrated and interdisciplinary UNESCO approach with CI's mandate?

- How can the CI Sector better reflect Global Priority Africa in our programme and organizational culture?

- How can CI strengthen and institutionalize the promotion of gender equality in our CI programmes?