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# UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

## EDITORIAL

### A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

It is my pleasure, as Co-Secretary General of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance, to present to the membership the Executive Summary of the Annual Report of the International Steering Committee. This year has been one of many challenges across the globe, including the "infodemic" that has impacted our societies. Nonetheless, it has also been a very productive year for the ISC. Members of the ISC, working in partnership with UNESCO and all the community members, have met the challenges of our time and continued to advance media and information literacy. UNESCO and the UNESCO MIL Alliance are in the process of setting our goals for the coming year ahead and anticipate another impactful year.

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### **Executive Summary -- Annual Report International Steering Committee**

The International Steering Committee (ISC) of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance (MIL) – formerly the Global Alliance for Media and Information Literacy Partnerships (GAPMIL) – was seated after the fall 2019 global election and held its first meeting in December 2019. This annual report covers through the end of 2020. The ISC had a productive and impactful year while also responding to the circumstances presented by the global pandemic with brought challenges and opportunities.

The ISC met monthly and each meeting had a robust agenda with topics ranging from internal organization, engaging with regional chapters, and working collaboratively with UNESCO staff to external communications, partnerships, and opportunities to promote media and information literacy. The committee has established practices of circulating formal agendas before meetings,

sending drafts of detailed minutes promptly, and developing supportive documents such as an organizational chart, ISC roles and responsibilities, and accountability procedures. A Newcomers Welcome Procedure, a Facebook group, and the ISC Update monthly newsletter were also established.

The UNESCO and UNESCO MIL Alliance has worked together to co-lead more than 50 webinars about MIL issues (available on MIL Clicks Channels) since the pandemic situation started early 2020. The members of the UNESCO MIL Alliance also enhance a list of actions and projects about "Desinfodemic" that is available on the UNESCO MIL Alliance website.

The ISC worked with UNESCO on the change of name from GAPMIL to MIL Alliance and gave input on the new logo. Members of the ISC also participated in the UNESCO MIL Awards jury and awards ceremony and the International Organizing Committee for the 2020 Global MIL Week. Members of the ISC also worked with UNESCO on various projects, such as the MIL Cities initiative, and Youth Hackathon.

Members of the ISC gave more than 80 presentations at conferences or in webinars in 2020 that highlighted the work of the MIL Alliance. The target audiences for such presentations were local, regional, national, and global, reflective of the intended audience for a given event. Many of these presentations were recorded and so remain available for viewing, increasing their potential long-term impact. In addition, the ISC has begun working in partnership with the World Health Organization to plan a series of webinars in focused on health and MIL, with particular attention to how misinformation results in negative public health outcomes. The ISC continues to work closely with the regional chapters and the Youth Committee.

It's never late to remember that UNESCO is leading a strategic transformation with the alliance and thank the ISC for its support in engaging all members of the Alliance.

## NEWS

1. UNESCO launches Media and Information Literacy Alliance 2.0:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-launches-media-and-information-literacy-alliance-20>
2. All candidates are winners: UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance Awards 2020:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/all-candidates-are-winners-unesco-media-and-information-literacy-alliance-awards-2020>
3. Seoul Declaration on Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/seoul-declaration-media-and-information-literacy-everyone-and-everyone-0>
4. Take our Global Survey on Media and Information Literacy Developments:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/take-our-global-survey-media-and-information-literacy-developments>
5. Winners of the Global Media and Information Literacy Youth Hackathon reveal inspiring projects to fight disinfodemic:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/winners-global-media-and-information-literacy-youth-hackathon-reveal-inspiring-projects-fight>
6. Check out the Virtual Conference Hall where the Global MIL Week online Conference took place:  
<http://www.gmil2020.com/>

## CALL TO ACTION

- If you are not a member of The UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance, visit our website, get informed and join us: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/about>.
- If you are a member, use the email [gapmil@lists.unesco.org](mailto:gapmil@lists.unesco.org) to communicate within.
- If you would like to offer an editorial to the MIL Alliance Newsletter or have a news item that you want to share, please send an e-mail to [gapmil@lists.unesco.org](mailto:gapmil@lists.unesco.org).

**UNESCO MIL Alliance (GAPMIL)** is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to articulate actors in Media & Information Literacy field to develop a sustainable and fully literate society.

**Meet the ISC:** <https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/isc>

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