



# UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

## EDITORIAL

### Revitalizing Global Partnership for Media and Information Literacy Development

Imagine a world without partnerships among countries, organizations, and people. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 urgently calls for global partnership and mechanisms for implementation if all the SDG will be achieved. In this same spirit, UNESCO re-launches its major network on media and information literacy - the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance, previously named the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL). Moving forward, we should carefully and collectively consider the following five words. Words do have meaning.

**Origin:** The UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance had its genesis in 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, at the First Global Forum for Partnerships on MIL. This pioneering forum was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Seven years after its establishment, we are witnessing an increasing relevance of its mandate, especially during the COVID-19 disinfodemic when the necessity of MIL has become more evident than ever. It is an imperative to broaden and deepen the reach and impact of the actions of the UNESCO MIL Alliance. We should not forget the foundation laid so that we can build purposefully and strategically on it.

**Meaning:** The purpose of the UNESCO MIL Alliance is explicit. It is about advancing media and information literacy for all through partnerships, real partnerships. Thus, the fundamental objectives of the Alliance remain unchanged notwithstanding the relaunch:

- Articulating key strategic partnerships to drive MIL development globally;
- Enabling the MIL community to speak and address, with a unified voice, critical matters, including the need for policies;
- Further deepening the strategy for MIL to be treated as a composite concept by providing a common platform for MIL-related networks and associations globally that will ensure convergence of national, regional, and international initiative and the amplification of global impact.

We should not forget that it is this same meaning-making by people in their engagement with information, media, and digital technologies that forms the *raison d'être* of MIL. Members of the UNESCO MIL Alliance and its International Steering Committee are actively supporting this strategic move.

**Ethics:** Here we have another vital organ of MIL life. It is the search for verifiable information, truth, and transparency that is integral to critical thinking and meaning making. Championing MIL learning is a kind of calling. We should hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethics and truth. As the tagline in the movie *The Fifth Estate* puts it, “You can’t expose the world’s secrets... without exposing yours”.

**Collaboration:** This and the other four words are integrated and crosscutting. It is by combining our collecting visions, minds, hearts, resources, and sacrifices that we will succeed. The collaborative spirit calls for mutual respect and mutually beneficial relationships.

**Destiny:** As the great Bob Marley sings – he died but is still singing; the power of music and the word – “In this bright future you can’t forget your past”. There is hope for truth. And MIL is only one urgent pathway. The future can be bright for every member of the UNESCO MIL Alliance and this network collectively. It can be even brighter for all women and men of all ages, if truth and MIL prevail. It is urgent to permanently place MIL on the international development agenda.

In view of the re-positioning , the name of the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy has been officially changed to simply the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance. The visual identity, including the logo, has been revitalized. The thematic committees of the UNESCO MIL Alliance are gradually being activated to tackle different thematic areas of MIL, national-level alliances or chapters stimulated, and the Youth Committee bolstered through the MIL Youth Ambassadors. This youth branch of the Alliance consisting of the global coordinator, MIL Youth Ambassadors and regional coordinators implementing various youth-led MIL-related projects, involving numerous youth organizations and networks. Some other new features of the MIL Alliance 2.0 include a monthly news update, which informs its members, potential new members, and all stakeholders about the latest activities and achievements of the Alliance on a regular basis.

The new International Steering Committee that was elected in 2019 for a two-year tenure is making their contribution to Origin, Meaning, Ethics, Collaboration, and Destiny. Let us stand together in the search for truth. Then, we will rise.

To become a member of the UNESCO MIL Alliance, [sign up here](#).

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## 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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