**FORUM:** General Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** The question of ensuring security and freedom of expression in journalism

**SUBMITTED BY:** Hungary

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** USA, UNESCO, African Union, Canada, HRW, Italy, Uganda, South Korea, Cape Verde, New Zealand

DATE: 7/11/2019,

*Recognizes* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) resolution 72/175 as a guideline for the treatment of journalists as free individuals with the right to free speech,

*Further recognizes* the importance of local and large-scale journalism as a form of speech and a necessity in keeping member states, the United Nations, and all parties accountable and working for the people,

*Believing* in the efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Reporters without Borders (RSF), the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) as well as smaller regional NGOs in their fight for the rights and protections of journalists around the world,

*Desiring* the expansion of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists (UN Plan of Action) to include more protective measures for journalists and further methods for the publication of media in nations opposed to free journalism,

1. Proclaims the expansion of the UN Plan of Action in order to:
   1. Work with RSF and relevant regional NGOs to assemble an official United Nations Freedom of Press Rating System (UNFPRS) which would:
      1. In a similar manner to the Press Freedom Index, contain as much data as possible on media censorship, the number of journalists either imprisoned or killed, the level access to external media, and any other relevant information the UN Plan of Action deems necessary,
      2. Publish collected data in a series of rankings available to all member states and civilians,
      3. Continually collect and update the ranking system with current information,
   2. Provide monetary rewards to member states which would:
      1. Be conditional on the provision of evidence to the UN Plan of Action either by the UNFPRS or other means that significant improvement has been made to laws, regulation, policy, or other such methods a member state might attempt to influence the freedom of journalism,
      2. Be rewarded in proportion to the advance made as determined by the UN Plan of Action;
2. Further proclaims that the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) implement a United Nations Anonymous Reporting Program (UNARP) under the UN Plan of Action which would:
   1. Require that any journalist who enters the program provide evidence of a professional journalist background as well as full name, nation of residence, and any other information the UNARP deems necessary,
   2. Allow journalists to anonymously publish and report on any issue they deem would put them in danger if it were to be published with personal information,
   3. Put endangered journalists in contact with free journalists for the purpose of endangered journalists anonymously publishing stories via the proxy of a journalist in more free journalist states;
3. Requests the UN Plan of Action implement a company to member state Journalism Integration Program (JIP) which would:
   1. Work towards the goal of connecting member states with willing media organizations in order to aid in the inclusion of free media organizations in member states lacking in journalist freedom or safety,
   2. Collect contacts in both member states and the journalism/media private sector for those who would be willing to partake in the JIP,
   3. Follow the general outline of integration including but not limited to:
      1. The establishment of clear and direct communication between the participants,
      2. Journalist and representative visitations from the company to report in said member state,
      3. Increasing the frequency in which visitations are conducted by the media company,
      4. The establishment of sources, consultants, and possible journalists in the member state,
      5. The permanent stationing of journalists in said member state,
      6. The establishment of a representative office or branch of the participating media company in said member state,
   4. Be entirely conditional on the agreement and cooperation of all parties involved to the extent that editions or limitations may be added per the agreement of all parties involved,
   5. Reward both nations and companies participating with monetary sums depending on the progress made as determined by the UN Plan of Action,
4. Further requests the UN Plan of Action to work with the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) in the expansion of public awareness programs which would:
   1. Be optional to any nation who wishes to better educate their public on the rights, norms, and injustices associated with freedom and safety of journalists,
   2. Include a variety of programs such as but not limited to:
      1. Educational courses on journalism, the right to free speech, and other related issues that UN Plan of Action deems fit,
      2. Advertisement campaigns promoting freedom of expression and other related issues that UN Plan of Action deems fit,
      3. The celebration of World Press Freedom Day,
      4. Any other program either the UN Plan of Action or UNESCO believes to be helpful in the education of the public on this issue,
   3. If a nation implements one of the provided programs, additionally provide a monetary reward depending on the program and the extent it is implemented as defined by the UN Plan of Action,
   4. Be open to any nation who wishes to partake to the extent that all costs will be covered by UNESCO and the UN Plan of Action,
5. Calls upon the UN Plan of Action to enact a Journalist Protection Program (JPP) which would:
   1. Apply to all journalists working in a region which is recognized by NGOs such as RSF as a censored or dangerous state for journalists,
   2. If a journalist wishes to remain in their location, provide a monetary budget to the company employing said journalist for the purchasing of security equipment,
   3. If a journalist wishes to leave their location, aid in the extraction of said journalist by means of:
      1. The payment for and arrangement of legal documents for the extraction of the journalist,
      2. The payment of travel fees to a more secure member state,
   4. Be entirely conditional on the following of legal procedures and in no way would violate the migration laws or sovereignty of a nation,
6. Endorses​ the international protection of freedom of speech and freedom of the press through journalism by means of, but not limited to:
   1. Permitting the full publication of media in a member state without the interference of the government with exception to government sensitive areas such as but not limited to:
      1. Inside of governmental buildings or homes of politicians,
      2. Within the confines of military facilities,
      3. Immigration offices at borders of nations,
   2. The limitation of the publication of personal details without the express permission of said journalist or other citizens,
   3. Allowing Media members to travel safely between nations for the sole purpose of reporting (with verification to prove their travel purposes are journalism-related),
   4. Not detaining/imprisoning journalists for their political views or publications even if they diminish the image of a nation;
   5. The United Nations Plan of Action providing proportional monetary rewards to nations who provide sufficient evidence that improvement in one of the aforementioned ways has been made.