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## Chapeau

- *The right to reliable information needs to be included in future development agendas. Multilateral collaboration is built on well-informed, critical, and resilient citizens who have unimpeded access to accurate, high-quality information.*
- *The challenges that the international community is facing today can be addressed only through stronger international cooperation. Cooperation requires trust and the exchange of fact-based information. Successful communication is critical to achieve the SDGs and the goals anchored in the Pact for the Future.*
- *Viable public interest media ecosystems enable a public sphere that is freely accessible, protected against manipulation and censorship, based on the right of freedom of expression. This is crucial to facilitate meaningful public participation for all and bring in diverse voices. Therefore, nurturing viable public interest media ecosystems is an essential prerequisite for the success of the Pact.*
- *Media and journalists are important stakeholders in the Pact for the Future. They play a vital role in raising awareness of its goals, and in promoting the Pact's objectives and outcomes. They can also help hold all stakeholders accountable for their commitments and ensure that the implementation of the Pact is transparent and inclusive. Only if the goals of the Pact are brought to the attention of the public and shared through a lively and open debate can they be realized and accepted.*
- *It is essential to promote a human-centric internet that ensures respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law and protects against harmful behaviors. All stakeholders must commit to preserve an open, free, globally connected, interoperable, unfragmented, and stable internet as the most important platform for cooperation, communication, and the media.*

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

- *Information integrity needs to be strengthened. Its deterioration jeopardizes the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender-based disinformation and hate speech systematically oppress women and marginalized groups and push them out of the public sphere. Misinformation about climate change undermines scientific knowledge and urgent climate action. Disinformation and hate speech weaken trust in democratic and multilateral institutions and processes and fuel conflict.*

- *Connecting the unconnected and reconnecting the disconnected is not just about infrastructure and access to the internet. Meaningful connectivity also requires content that is reliable and accessible. Media can play an important role in creating and maintaining an enabling environment in which locally relevant, local language content is created. This supports the achievement of all SDGs.*
- *Internet governance is critical for economic, social, and environmental development. It is a crucial enabler of sustainable development, ensuring that the internet is used in a responsible and inclusive manner, and can contribute to promoting access to information, communication, and innovation.*

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

- *Press freedom is a vital part of an infrastructure for sustainable peace. Independent media offer a platform for civil society engagement, societal debate, and criticism. They support societal processes to bridge divides and reach consensus on contentious issues.*
- *Concrete measures to safeguard the right to freedom of expression and press freedom are essential for any conflict prevention strategy. These measures include supporting independent media, protecting journalists from physical, psychological, and digital harm and enabling safe spaces for debate – offline and online.*
- *Resilient information ecosystems, provided by strong independent media, are key to countering shrinking civic spaces, authoritarian trends, and attacks on human rights.*
- *Women play an essential role in all peace processes. As a vital step to ensuring women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in decision-making and sustaining peace, women must be able to access reliable information and voice their opinions freely. Hate speech and gender-based disinformation push women out of the public space.*
- *Disinformation campaigns are on the rise, especially via social media. Targeted disinformation undermines democracy and is used as a weapon of war.*
- *Fair elections are key to sustaining peaceful transitions of power. All stakeholders must ensure information integrity in the run-up to elections.*
- *A free press is crucial to achieve development goals and multilateral cooperation. Autocratic tendencies and democratic backsliding jeopardize media freedom in many countries. States must counteract these developments by strengthening independent media and NGOs, as well as Public Service Media.*
- *All stakeholders must support media in countering threats to online expression, internet controls, mass surveillance and disinformation campaigns.*

## **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

- *Education on digital literacy should always include media and information literacy so that people can safely navigate information ecosystems online.*
- *Media development organizations and independent media, particularly from the Global South, should be consulted in designing future in-depth studies on information integrity.*
- *Independent media are key to information integrity on digital platforms. Their viability and role should be strengthened to be able to compete in a digital environment that is now dominated by a small number of big tech companies.*

- *Regulation is necessary to ensure that content moderation decisions on digital platforms do not adversely affect journalists and minority groups, particularly in the Global South.*
- *Artificial intelligence is a transformative type of technology as powerful as the internet in terms of how it restructures our society. The international community needs to start initiatives to prevent a new digital divide caused by artificial intelligence.*
- *Generative AI poses an urgent threat to the integrity of the public sphere. There is a risk of pollution from an infinite volume of untrustworthy, AI-generated content. There is also a risk of a takeover of the public sphere by well-resourced actors with access to AI tools that are pushing out independent media. The international community is called upon to ensure globally applicable, human rights-based regulation of AI.*
- *The media and technology sector should promote open-source solutions, accompanied by a code of conduct rooted in local collaboration, to encourage transparency and inclusivity.*

#### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

- *All stakeholders must commit to protect young generations from harms that hamper engagement in multilateral processes, such as mis- and disinformation, hate speech and gender-based disinformation. The digitization of the media and the dominance of social media platforms mean that many young people get their information almost exclusively from digital platforms. News sites compete with a variety of other voices that shape public discourse – including those that spread disinformation, propaganda, and hate speech. These trends will only increase with new technologies, including artificial intelligence. Young people not only need the skills to access reliable information and to judge if it is true or false but also the confidence to act as responsible digital citizens and shape the world they live in for the better.*
- *Media and information literacy – the ability to access, use and create media responsibly – empowers youth to make their voices heard and participate in societal debates. It is fundamental to realize their human right to freedom of expression and their meaningful engagement in policy and decision-making processes.*
- *Information needs to reach young people where they are. Independent media with specific offers for younger generations are the prerequisite for full and effective youth participation. Media play a vital role in reaching marginalized young people whose voices are currently not heard in multilateral discourses. Therefore, all stakeholders need to strengthen viable, independent media.*

#### **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

- *Access to reliable information and platforms for information-sharing and dialogue are key when crises hit. Independent media, especially local and community media, should be involved in a multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach that can enable us to better respond to future shocks.*
- *Media development organizations and independent media should be included in the development of an Emergency Platform. Structured and coordinated crisis response requires reliable multi-way communication channels. Affected communities need access to fact-based, lifesaving information and a platform to share their needs with humanitarian actors, governments, and other stakeholders.*

- *National governments and the international community should strengthen mechanisms and structures that provide reliable information to crisis-affected people. Crises hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Local and community media are key to reaching marginalized communities: they are trusted sources of information and offer direct participation.*