

African Union, African Regional Bodies

Midrand declaration on press freedom in Africa

Legislation as at 16 May 2013

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Midrand declaration on press freedom in Africa
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African Union

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Commenced

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Considering Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which states: "Every individual shall have the right to receive information"; and that "every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law".

Acknowledging the Windhoek Declaration of 1991 which promotes an Independent and Pluralistic African Press and has stated explicitly the Right of Freedom of expression and information for every individual;

Noting the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa 2002, the Declaration of Table Mountain 2007, the African Charter on Broadcasting 2001, the Declaration of the African Platform on Access to Information 2011; and

Considering the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), it is stated in the objectives of the Parliament that it shall, among other things: "Promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa and "Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States".

Congratulating the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) for its commitment to promote the right to freedom of expression by appointing a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa by the Resolution ACHPR/Res.71 (XXXVI)04;

Fulfilling the PAP Resolution No PAP/P(3)/RES/08(I) on the Campaign on "Press Freedom for Development and Governance: Need for Reform".

Endorsing the conclusions of the Dialogue on Media Freedom in Africa held on the 15th May 2013 in the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa under the theme of "Press Freedom for Development and Governance: Need for Reform"

The Pan-African Parliament:

1. **hereby decides to:**

- (i) Launch the campaign on "**Press Freedom for Development and Governance: Need for Reform**" in all five Regions of Africa.
- (ii) Establish an annual "**PAP Award on Media Freedom in Africa**" for individuals, organizations and Member States;
- (iii) Establish an annual "**PAP Index on Media Freedom in Africa**".

2. **Calls upon** the AU Member African States to consider the use the African Court of Human and People Rights **Model Law on Access to Information** in adopting or reviewing access to information laws; and

3. **Requests** Development Partners to support the implementation of the related Resolutions with assistance and support.

Done in Midrand on the 16 May 2013