



Report on the International Programme for the Development of Communication  
(IPDC)

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Committee Members, Friends and Colleagues, thank you for this opportunity to present a brief overview of the current activities of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). A report of all our activities in 2006-2007 that includes regional distribution of programs is available as an information document.

The IPDC is the only multilateral forum in the United Nations system designed to mobilize the international community to discuss and promote media development in developing countries.

The overriding objective of IPDC – which is guided by an Intergovernmental Council composed of 39 member states elected by UNESCO's General Conference – is to contribute to sustainable development, democracy and good governance by fostering universal access to and distribution of information and knowledge through strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries in transition in the field of electronic media and print press as well as the promotion of freedom of expression and media pluralism.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental element of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is widely seen as underpinning overall democratic freedoms. Media outlets are crucial to the exercise of freedom of expression because they provide the public a platform through which the right is effectively exercised.

In this sixty year anniversary of the Universal Declaration, it is an appropriate time to review the activities of one of our flagship programs and one that this Committee has endorsed.

The efforts of the IPDC have had an important impact on a broad range of fields

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