**Presentation of the 2018 Chapultepec Grand Prize**

**Sunday, April 15, 2018, Lunch – Antioquia Room, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Midyear Meeting – Medellín, Colombia**

**Words by Chapultepec Committee Chairman**

**Gilberto Urdaneta, *El Regional del Zulia*, Venezuela**

Good afternoon to all those present.

It is an honor for the IAPA to distinguish today the Newseum with the 2018 Chapultepec Grand Prize. I have to confess that already several years ago the name of the world’s most recognized interactive news and journalism museum was among the lists of finalists to receive it.

This award, one of the most important for the IAPA, was created in 1998 to highlight the importance of the 10 principles contained in the Declaration of Chapultepec, the document that we have called our “creed” and the essence of what must be a free press in a democracy. That is why we consider that it was more than deserved to recognize on this occasion the Museum.

Our organization identifies itself with many of the galleries and exhibitions of this spectacular museum, but I would like to pay tribute to the journalists, photographers, communicators in general who lost their lives in the world covering the news. The death of a journalist is a very close and current matter for the Latin Americans and yesterday hearing the press freedom reports we fully identified ourselves with the homage in perpetuity for the fallen.

The Chapultepec Grand Prize has been awarded since 1998 to a select group of men and women and institutions, these are: Gregorio Badeni, Alberto Ibargüen, Catalina Botero, Fernando Henrique Cardozo, Enrique Krauze, Mario Vargas Llosa, José Miguel Vivanco, Asdrúbal Aguiar, Santiago Cantón, Anthony Lewis, Claudio Grossman, Jorge Santistevan, Dana Bullen, Arthur O. Sulzberger, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, the Supreme Court of Argentina, World Bank and Inter-American Human Rights Court.

On this occasion it is an honor for our institution to add the name of the Museum to our list.

Scott Williams, thank you very much for your commitment and work. I would now like to pass the word to our president, Gustavo Mohme.