



DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON
International Association of Broadcasters - IAB
Inter American Press Association - IAPA
Washington D.C. May 2022

PREAMBLE

Within the framework of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of "The Panama Doctrine," the first agreement signed by the International Association of Broadcasters and the Inter American Press Association for the joint defense of freedom of expression and freedom of information, IAB and IAPA, meeting in Washington D.C., USA,

DECLARE:

1. To renew adherence to the "Panama Doctrine on Freedom of Expression," signed in Panama City in 1952, in which both organizations affirmed that any aggression against the freedom of expression of any person or entity that defends or practices freedom of expression through media in all its forms, constitutes aggression against all members of the IAB and the IAPA.
2. To reiterate what was established in the Caracas Agreement they signed in 1973, whereby they categorically repudiate all forms of authoritarianism and dictatorship, which mean the denial of fundamental rights, human dignities, social welfare, and Democracy.
3. To reaffirm what was stated in the Declaration of Sao Paulo, 1991, that all new technology applied to communications constitutes progress for humanity and should therefore be used to strengthen the exercise of freedom of expression in all its forms and the plurality of opinions and media.
4. To ratify the joint position before the Information Society, approved in 2002, by emphasizing that "the full validity of freedom of expression lies in the existence of media that, in a regime of free competition and plurality, exercise their work with economic independence," and that "free and independent media constitute a fundamental element in the relationship between the government, political parties and the different groups and sectors of society, for the formation of public opinion."

5. To express that freedom of expression and the right to information, online and offline, must be exercised and ensured without detriment to the operation and freedom of the media formally established in each country; therefore, their viability, sustainability, independence, and pluralism must be guaranteed.
6. To point out that government should promote and establish the necessary legal conditions for national and local media to prosper in the new digital era, with equal opportunities vis-à-vis global digital platforms.
7. To indicate that international instruments and local legislation on copyright should establish effective protection mechanisms against the unauthorized and unfair use by third parties of the content produced by the media, regardless of the technological modality or platform used for its dissemination.
8. Both organizations will continue their efforts to expand the ideology of freedom they have promoted for decades in the Americas. Unfortunately, in the 21st-century, threats and actions that threaten the existence of journalism and free and independent media persist around the world.

Washington D.C. May 24, 2022.

Eugenio Sosa Mendoza
IAB President

Jorge Canahuati
IAPA President