

A resolution condemning the transnational oppression and targeting of journalists.

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as, inter alia, race, religion or other status,

Recalling the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which describes freedom of speech as “a highest aspiration of the common people”,

Recalling the right to freedom of expression reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1948 (“the Universal Declaration”), which states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”,

Noting that the right to freedom of expression is further enshrined in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1966 (“ICCPR”), as well as in numerous other international instruments,

Bearing in mind UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1371 adopted in 2001, which reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Recognizing that 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of World Press Freedom Day by the 48th UN General Assembly, following a resolution by UNESCO’s 26th General Conference,

Acknowledging that the safety of journalists is essential to preserve the fundamental right to freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing that the work of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel often puts them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment, and violence,

Further recognizing the specific risks faced by women journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in conduct of their work, and underlining in this context the importance of considering the gender dimension of measures to address their safety,

Noting with concern recent incidents of intimidation, harassment, and violence against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel by both state and non-state actors, and condemns such incidents in the strongest terms,

Recognizing that impunity for intimidation, harassment and violence committed against journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel remains a significant challenge to their protection and that ensuring accountability for crimes committed against them is a key element in preventing future intimidation, harassment, and violence,

1. *Strongly condemns* all intimidation, harassment and violence against journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel;

2. *Condemns also* the prevailing impunity for intimidation, harassment and violence committed against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel;
3. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate steps to ensure accountability for crimes committed against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel through the conduct of impartial, independent and effective investigations within their jurisdiction and to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists, media professionals and associated personnel to perform their work independently and without undue interference;
5. *Encourages* Member States to comply fully with UNESCO General Conference Resolution 29 entitled 'Condemnation of Violence against Journalists,' which calls upon Member States to adopt the principle that there should be no statute of limitations on persons guilty of crimes against persons exercising the right to freedom of expression.