

Confronting the Crisis in Independent Media: Strategic Approaches for International Donors

OECD Conference Centre
2 rue André Pascal
Paris, France

Day 1, January 31

09:00 – Coffee and light breakfast

09:30 – Welcome

Opening remarks to set meeting objectives by the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

09:50 – Entry points for strategic approaches to media development

This session will open with a brief presentation by Nick Benequista, CIMA, on the background research conducted with meeting participants to identify existing and potential entry points for providing support to media development that is demand-driven, coordinated, and oriented toward strategic, long-term objectives.

Following this, respondents will provide insight on actions that could be taken to improve the overall effort in the media and information sector in the coming years.

- Craig Hammer, World Bank
- Alastair King-Smith, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
- Mira Milosevic, Executive Director, Global Forum for Media Development

This session concludes with an open discussion, moderated by Mark Nelson, CIMA.

11:00 – Strategic responses in practice, Part 1

This session will present initiatives and lessons learned from efforts to support media sector institutions underpinning sustainability. Presenters conclude their time slot with suggestions on what donors could do and how. Moderator Helena Bjuremalm, Sida, will then open the floor to plenary discussion and solicit recommendations from participants.

- Kristin Olson, Sida, presents on their experience building the institutions that underpin an independent media sector.
- Andris Kesteris, EU Commission's DG NEAR, presents on the application of governance models in enabling the survival of diverse public interest media in the Balkans.

12:30 – Lunch

14:00 – Strategic responses in practice, Part 2

This session will present initiatives and lessons learned in integrating media development into the governance agenda as a key approach. Presenters conclude their time slot with suggestions on what donors could do and how, followed by plenary discussion to solicit recommendations from participants.

- Joe Powell, OGP, will present on the use of the OGP country platforms as a forum for getting media development objectives on the broader governance agenda.
- Sarah Lister, UNDP, will speak about the current efforts to bolster the UNDP's country-level role in media development.
- H el ene N'Garnim-Ganga, AFD, will present on their experience integrating media development into the broader governance portfolio.

15:15 – Coffee break

15:30 – Strategic responses in practice, Part 3

This session will present initiatives and lessons learned from multi-stakeholder coalitions as a key approach. Presenters conclude with suggestions on what donors could do and how, followed by plenary discussion to solicit recommendations from participants.

- Jesper H ojberg, IMS, will present approaches and lessons learned from their experience building multi-stakeholder coalitions and networks.
- Sulemana Braimah, Media Foundation of West Africa, will present on a regional approach to media development that leverages the influence of the ECOWAS community.
- Guilherme Canela, UNESCO, will present experiences from Latin America on support to regional multi-stakeholder coalitions.

16:30 – Donor-only roundtable discussion: Overcoming obstacles to media support internally and through partnerships

This discussion will explore internal organizational issues at donor agencies that hinder the place of media on the governance agenda and impede wider strategic activity in this area. The session will plot opportunities and strategies for countering these obstacles.

- Will Taylor, DFID, and Corinne Huser, SDC, will lead a discussion, drawing on their own experience, to identify the kinds of partnerships and internal reforms that can help to bolster the role of media in governance support.

17:30 – End of Day 1

19:00 – Dinner (Open to all at restaurant near OECD)

Day 2, February 1

Donor only

09:00 – Coffee and light breakfast

09:15 – Formulating action plans for strategic approaches to media development

This session provides the opportunity to formulate action plans related to specific entry points agreed upon on the previous day and to the identified challenges for donor cooperation. Subject to conclusions of the first day, provisional break-out groups in this session are:

- Group 1: Building multi-stakeholder coalitions and networks for sustainable media ecosystems
- Group 2: Strengthening governance and democracy support for media in closed and illiberal states

With help of the facilitators, each group will be asked to formulate clear and actionable proposals and concrete opportunities for:

- a) Ways to collaborate and to improve donor cooperation, and
- b) Ways to improve the quality and effect of governance support addressing media and information challenges, including how to strengthen dialogue at the country level.

Each group will elect an individual to provide the report-back and to participate in a panel that leads the afternoon synthesis session in plenary.

10:15 – Building an agenda and the political will for confronting the crisis

This session provides the opportunity to formulate a strategy for building a shared agenda and political will to support action. Subject to the conclusions of the first day, the two provisional break-out groups in this session are:

- Group 1: Leveraging the good governance agenda for media development
- Group 2: Leveraging the peacebuilding agenda for media development in fragile states

With help of the facilitators, each group will be asked to formulate clear and actionable proposals and concrete opportunities for:

- a) Ways to collaborate and to improve donor cooperation, and
- b) Ways to improve the quality and effectiveness of governance support addressing media and information challenges.

Each group will elect an individual to provide the report-back and to participate in a panel that leads the afternoon synthesis session in plenary.

12:15 – Report back from the break-out groups

12:45 – Lunch

13:45 – Synthesis: A shared agenda and a strategy for building political will

Topic 1: Building an agenda for confronting the crisis

With input from all participants, a panel of four chosen from the break-out sessions will lead the plenary in identifying common conclusions across the different contexts as part of a core strategy, while a rapporteur records the conclusions in real time on a screen. The session should conclude with a coherent and shared vision for how to confront the crisis through international cooperation.

Topic 2: Building political will for the agenda

With input from all participants, a panel of four chosen from the break-out sessions will lead the plenary in formulating a plan for engagement at the political level to build support for this agenda. This could include, for example, engagement at the SDC High-Level Meeting and the OECD High-Level Ministerial, and/or collaboration with regional bodies such as OAS and African Union, including through multi-stakeholder regional consultations. The rapporteur will also record the conclusions of this conversation.

14:30 – Action points and conclusion

This final session would be a facilitated discussion about concrete steps and action points that could be taken toward realizing the strategic agenda created in the previous sessions, including the recommendation actions for OECD GovNet’s proposed program of work.

Identified needs of coordination and further meetings in 2019 and 2020 will be specified.

16:00 – Closing remarks by CIMA and Sida