



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018

**Working session 3 – Freedom of the Media**

**Statement by Luxembourg**

Mr. Moderator,

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Concerning media freedom, we believe that as participating states, we ought to focus on the eight following actions:

- Cooperate fully and in good faith with the Representative on Freedom of the Media and follow his recommendations, as well as those of the mandate holders of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Procedures.
- Implement international recommendations and practice for the prevention of harassment and violence against journalists, notably in the digital space and paying particular attention to women journalists or those belonging to vulnerable groups. The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists merits our attention in particular.
- Respect article 20.1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates: "Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law."
- Organise serious, credible, and independent investigations into all cases of violence or harassment against journalists, if necessary with the support of international organisations.
- Do not misuse the law or legal instruments, including international police or judicial cooperation mechanisms, to put pressure on journalists.
- Abstain from stigmatising journalists by calling them "traitors", "enemies of the people", or "lying press". It is the state's responsibility to protect press freedom, not to undermine it.
- States' media support programmes must not limit the press' freedom of expression, its pluralism, its independence, or its critical approach.
- Finally, it is important to support civil society organisations which work independently for the protection of journalists and civic space.

Mr. Moderator,

A space in which journalists are targeted and murdered because of their work – work which is explicitly protected by national and international law – is not a space of freedom.

We are greatly concerned by the unacceptable internal restrictions imposed by states on press freedom, notably by using legal means to this end, all the while propagating fake news to both domestic and foreign audiences.

A free and pluralist press, able to investigate corruption and authoritarian tendencies of state representatives, is independent for democracy and the rule of law.

Thank you.