

# declaration

## Signatories to the Declaration

### Burundi

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 ● Jean-Pierre Manda, Président du Conseil National de la Communication (CNC)  
 ● Emmanuel Muyehe, Président de l'Observatoire de la presse burundaise (OPS)  
 Directeur du journal Ndongozzi  
 ● Thierry Ndayishimiye, Directeur du journal Arc-en-Ciel  
 ● Jean-Paul Ndayizeye, Rédacteur en chef de la Radio Publique Africaine (RPA)  
 ● Charles Ndayiziga, Coordonnateur du CENAP (Centre d'alerte et de prévention des conflits)  
 ● Evode Ndayizigiye, Directeur de l'Agence Burundaise de Presse (APB)  
 ● Prime Ndikumagenge, Rédacteur en chef de Radio Isanganiro  
 ● Cyprien Ndikumana, Représentant de l'IPB au Burundi et Rwanda  
 ● Anonciate Ndikumasabo, Secrétaire générale de la ligue burundaise des Droits de l'homme IREKA  
 ● Corneille Nibaruta, Directeur de la Radio Bonsha  
 ● Eulalie Nibizi, Présidente du syndicat des Travailleurs de l'Enseignement du Burundi (SIEB)  
 ● Espérance Nijembazi, Présidente de l'Association des Femmes journalistes (AFJ)  
 ● Willy Nindorera, Search for Common Ground  
 ● Patricia Ntaborubuze, Coordinatrice de l'Association des Femmes juristes du Burundi (AFJB)  
 ● Christophe Sebudandi, Président de la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme dans la région des Grands Lacs (LDL)  
 ● Adrien Sindayigaya, Directeur adjoint du Studio Jamba

### Democratic Republic of Congo

Godefroid Bwiti, Responsable de l'agence InterCongoMedia-Syfia Grands Lacs  
 ● Andre Ipakala Abeiye Mobiko, Directeur du journal La Référence Plus, Président de l'Association nationale des Éditeurs du Congo (ANECOAP)  
 ● Joseph Kakinda, Chargé de l'Information au Conseil National des ONG de développement de la RDC (CNGOND)  
 ● Isidore Kalala Kabonga, Directeur des programmes de la Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise (RTNC)  
 ● Jean-Claude Katende, Président de l'Association Africaine de Défense des Droits de l'Homme, ASADHO/ Katanga  
 ● Yves Laplume, Directeur de la Radio Okapi (MONUC/ Fondation Hirondelle)  
 ● Rose Lukano, Journaliste à la RTNC, Présidente de l'Association des femmes des médias du Katanga (AFEMEX)  
 ● Rycky Mapama, Secrétaire général de l'Association nationale des Entreprises audiovisuelles privées (ANEAP)  
 ● Steve Matenga, Représentant de l'IPB pour la RDC  
 ● René Mateso Ngonzo, Président de la plate forme de l'ONG Initiative congolaise pour le sauvetage des populations de Goma (ICC) et de l'ONG Organisation concertée des écologistes et amis de la nature (OCEAN)  
 ● Polydor Muboyayi Mubanga, Éditeur-Directeur du journal Le Phare, Président de l'Observatoire des Médias Congolais (OMEC)  
 ● Arnold Mulenda, Chargé des NTIC au Réseau d'organisation de défense des Droits de l'homme et d'éducation civique (RHODECIC)  
 ● Freddy Mulongo, Président de l'Association des radios communautaires et associatives du Congo (ARCO), Responsable de Réveil FM  
 ● Kizito Mushizi, Directeur de Radio Maendeleo, Coordonnateur du Réseau des radios et télévisions communautaires de l'est de la RDCongo (RATECO), Président provincial de l'UNPC  
 ● Tshibibi Ngondavi, Directeur de Cabinet de la Haute Autorité des Médias (HAM)  
 ● Kabeya Pindi Pasi, Président de l'Union nationale de la presse du Congo (UNPC)  
 ● Gabriel Shabani Kaburwa, Rédacteur en chef de la Radio Télévision Sango Malamu  
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### Rwanda

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 ● André Gakwaya, Journal Grands Lacs Hebdo  
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### Uganda

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## Observers

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### Experts

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## Organisers

### Institut Panos Paris

Françoise Havelange, directrice déléguée  
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The Bagamoyo Declaration was adopted at the outcome of a inter-regional workshop, convened by the Panos Institute in Paris, with the involvement of the Panos Institute in East Africa and the Panos Institute in Southern Africa, on the theme "Peace Building in the Great Lakes: the Media's Commitment" (Bagamoyo, Tanzania, December 13 to 15, 2004).

This meeting was organised as part of the program "Plural Media for Peace and Democracy in Central Africa" (Program Director: Pascal Berqué).

The Bagamoyo meeting received support from the British, Irish and French bi-lateral Aid Agencies (respectively DFID, DCI and MAE); the Inter-Governmental Francophone Agency (AIF); the Dutch and the French Nco's CORDAID and CCFD.



# Peace Building in the Great Lakes

the media's  
commitment

## BAGAMOYO DECLARATION

DECEMBER 15, 2004

We, media professionals and civil society organisations from Burundi, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, meeting in Bagamoyo from 13-15 December 2004, under the auspices of Panos Paris and in the presence of representatives of civil society in the respective countries;

- Considering the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region adopted on 19-20 November 2004 by Heads of State as part of the International Conference on Peace, Security, and Democracy in the Great Lakes Region, and the result of a long process of consultation with various elements of civil society;

- Informed by the principles of the Windhoek Declaration of May 3 1990 and the Windhoek + 10 Declaration, which are the foundations for media freedom and a pluralistic press in sub-Saharan Africa;

- Considering the significant contribution to the preparatory processes leading up to the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Democracy in the Great Lakes Region made by groups representing women, youth and civil society;

- Cognisant of the weak presence of the media during this preparatory process;

## Recognise:

1. The issues identified during the preparatory phase of the International Conference, such as peace and security, democracy and good governance, humanitarian and social issues, economic development and regional integration, and the hostile environment that the media must overcome in order to report these issues more accurately, comprehensively and professionally;
2. The compelling need for the media to be more fully involved in monitoring the implementation of signed peace agreements; in popularising the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration signed by Heads of State; and in building sustainable peace in the region;
3. The failure by the media to disseminate reliable information among our various countries and the attendant failure to thus provide a comprehensive overview of the conflict situation in our region;
4. The absence of a regional consultative framework to enable media from different countries to meet and exchange views and information on current affairs and the future of their profession;

5. The dramatic consequences of a failure of some of our media to observe professional and ethical standards, by inciting prejudice and ethnic hatred, disseminating political and ideological propaganda, and acting as militant supporters of violent factions;
6. The undeniably positive impact of some of the region's media committed to remain at the service of the people, defending citizens' rights and the right to information that is full, thorough, honest and fair;
7. The difficult conditions in which our media have to operate in troubled areas, where they are exposed to flagrant violations of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, limited access to information and the vulnerability resulting from the financial fragility of publishers;
8. The under-representation of women in the media, and the lack of awareness of the problems to which they are especially exposed during armed conflicts;
9. The weak strategic links between our media and civil society organisations, whether national or regional, which result in little or no professional media investigation into or analysis of humanitarian and social issues;
10. The metropolitan bias of our media, usually based in capital cities, with the result that isolated rural populations have no voice, or access to information, whereas it is they who often bear the brunt of conflict;
11. The difficulties our media face in covering humanitarian, social, economic and security issues (e.g. refugees and displaced persons, women and children in conflict areas, the AIDS pandemic, economic development, etc) because they have limited access to information sources and conflict areas.

## Resolve as follows:

1. To actively disseminate the different international treaties signed by our governments with respect to the management of conflicts, and their social, economic, political and environmental consequences, as well as a return to peace in the region;
2. To ensure better monitoring of the implementation of mechanisms developed within the framework of the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, as well as broader peace initiatives;
3. To set up mechanisms for more effective dissemination of information both nationally and regionally;
4. To promote the regional exchange of information, including co-productions by mixed nationality teams of reporters from the region's media;

5. To strengthen the professionalism of our media by better internal monitoring of the information they put out and by supporting the watchdog bodies and press clubs set up to facilitate self-regulation and sanction violations of codes of professional conduct;

6. To develop, in consultation with relevant professional bodies, appropriate in-house training for journalists and other media personnel, so as to ensure they understand the rules of ethical journalism;

7. To increase the role of the media in civic education and the promotion of debates on issues of public interest, as well as serving as a forum for pluralist expression by the public within a democratic framework;

8. To strengthen our capacity to act as a watchdog and thus join with civil society organisations to ensure that the principles of good governance are respected and to consolidate the process of democratisation (and, if appropriate, lobby the authorities for the revision of archaic anti-press freedom laws);

9. To lobby governments, local NGO's and international agencies (e.g. UNHCR, WHO, etc.) through original initiatives, to ensure safe passage for media wishing to cover humanitarian, social, and environmental issues, etc. in areas where these problems are particularly acute;

10. To humanise conflict stories by ensuring that reporting focuses more on the suffering, needs and successes of the people involved, as well as bringing the attention of the public, the authorities and the international community to the consequences of these crisis on the lives of individuals;

11. To encourage our media to play an early-warning role, helping to defuse developing conflicts whose symptoms are often overlooked;

12. To work towards strengthening the financial and editorial independence of the media so as to protect them from various partisan interests;

13. To encourage state-owned broadcasting institutions to aspire towards public service broadcasting as a way of ensuring that they reflect a diversity of interests and opinions in our societies, enabling civil society to flourish; and

14. To galvanise regional solidarity in support of our colleagues working for peace in conflict areas and thus ensure that they are protected against any threats in the discharge of their duties.

Adopted in Bagamoyo, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2004