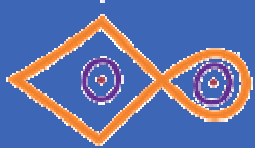
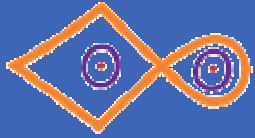


AFRICAN CHARTER ON BROADCASTING

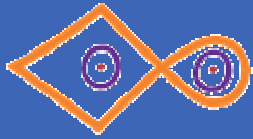
The logo represents the symbol li (eye) and yu (to hear) that are used by the Bamum people of Cameroon

What the Charter is:

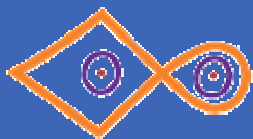
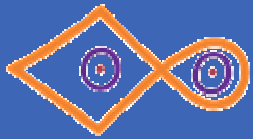
The African Charter on Broadcasting serves as a modern blueprint for policies and laws determining the future of broadcasting and information technology in Africa.



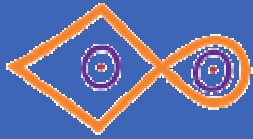
Why the Charter was developed:



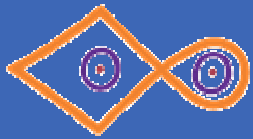
- Africa was the birthplace of the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press in 1991.
- Despite this, the region remains an international focal point of media freedom violations.
- The right to communicate is almost non-existent for the majority population.
- Since the adoption of the Declaration, though, there have been gains in media freedom in Africa.
- In some nation states, the media has begun to take up its role as a cornerstone of democracy and source of balanced information for citizens, though most African countries do not yet have free and independent broadcast and information environments.



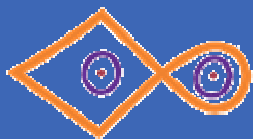
Why the Charter was developed:



- The Windhoek Declaration has served as a beacon that highlights the extent to which governments throughout the world and the region honour their commitments towards upholding and promoting media freedom, independence and diversity.

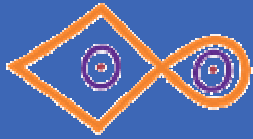


- However, the Windhoek Declaration focussed on promoting independent print media, and was silent on issues such as broadcasting liberalisation and the globalisation of the communications industry which have increasingly come into play in the last decade.

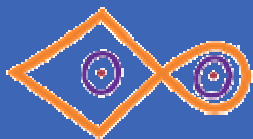
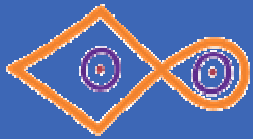


- Globalisation and liberalisation have serious social and economic implications for media freedom and development, not least because they threaten to jeopardise the ability of Africans to produce media that is both relevant to audiences throughout Africa, and reflects the continent's rich cultural diversity.

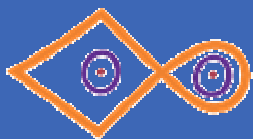
How the Charter was developed:



- Media practitioners and freedom of expression advocates from throughout Africa sought to address these concerns at the UNESCO-supported conference called to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration in Namibia in May 2001. The conference responded by adopting the African Charter on Broadcasting.
- The African launch of the Charter took place on May 3rd, 2002 as part of the African Commission Sessions on Human and Peoples' Rights, held this year in Pretoria, South Africa.

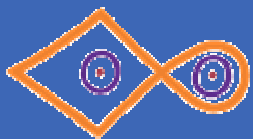


The status of the charter:

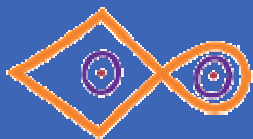


- Adopted by the Windhoek + 10 Conference by African and international media practitioners;

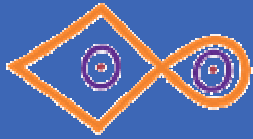
- In use by African media freedom advocates and seen as a 'twin' document to the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press;



- In distribution to media organisations and activists across Africa as part of the campaign to strengthen the Charter and develop support in preparation for WSIS endorsement.

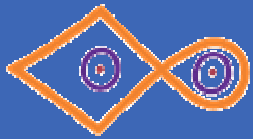


The World Summit on the Information Society

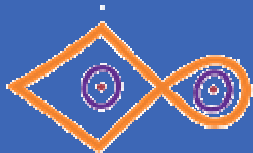


The United Nations is holding a summit called the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It will take place in two stages in Geneva in December 2003 & Tunisia 2005.

The aim of the summit is to formulate a common vision of the Information Society, while respecting diversity & offering equitable development opportunities for all.

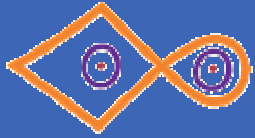


A series of consultations around the world will be held in the lead up to WSIS.

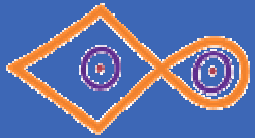


The African Charter on Broadcasting is being presented in these forums as an African Contribution.

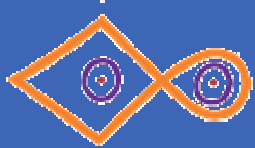
The organisations leading the campaign:



- Media Institute of Southern Africa
- Article19



- Southern Africa Communication for Development
- AMARC Africa

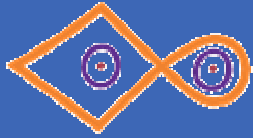


The Media Institute of Southern Africa

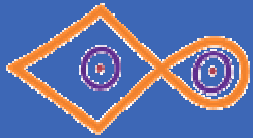
ict.projects@misa.org

www.misa.org

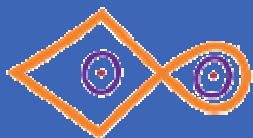
phone: +264 61 232 975



The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) is a non-governmental organisation with members in 11 of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries. Officially launched in September 1992, MISA focuses primarily on the need to promote free, independent and pluralistic media, as envisaged in the 1991 Windhoek Declaration and African Charter on Broadcasting.

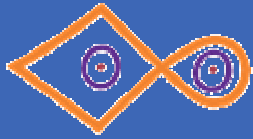


MISA seeks ways in which to promote the free flow of information and co-operation between media workers, as a principal means of nurturing democracy and human rights in Africa.



ARTICLE 19

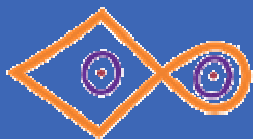
Info@article19.org.za
www.article19.org
phone: + 27 11 403 1488



Named after Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the organisation works world wide to combat censorship by promoting freedom of expression and access to official information.



With partners in over 30 countries, ARTICLE 19 works to strengthen local capacity to monitor and protest institutional and informal censorship.



ARTICLE 19 activity includes monitoring, research, publishing, lobbying, campaigning and litigation on behalf of freedom of expression wherever it is threatened. Standards are developed to advance media freedom and assist individuals to speak out and campaign for the free flow of information.

SACOD

Chris Kabwato
sacod@icon.co.za
www.sacod.co.za
phone: 27 11 403 8416

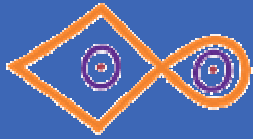


SACOD is a coalition of Southern Africa filmmakers and organisations in related services whose primary focus is the production and distribution of social responsibility films and videos. It was founded in 1987 by independent institutions from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique, and Canada to support the growth of independent video movement, and to support the process of democratisation in Southern Africa via the audio visual medium. SACOD now has members in ten SADC countries. South Africa (Regional Office), Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Angola, Lesotho, Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia with its regional co-operation office in Johannesburg.



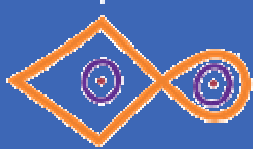
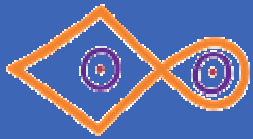
AMARC Africa

Michelle Ntab
regc@global.co.za
www.amarc.org
phone: +27 11 403 7913

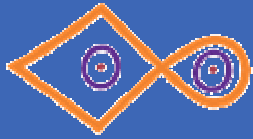


AMARC is an international member-owned non-governmental organisation formed in 1983. It serves the community radio movement, with almost 3,000 members and associates in 106 countries. Its goal is to promote the right to communicate and contribute to the development of community and participatory radio along the principals of solidarity and international co-operation.

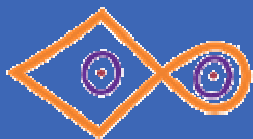
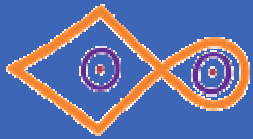
All continents are represented on AMARC's International Board.
The AMARC Africa office in Johannesburg, South Africa.



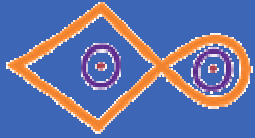
The campaign for Charter endorsement at WSIS:



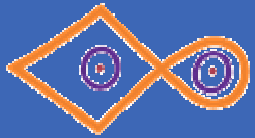
- We invite and encourage you to join us in this campaign by:
- Presenting and discussing the Charter in your context;
- Distributing the Charter in your context and encouraging your affiliates to join the campaign;
- Writing a letter of endorsement for presentation to the WSIS.



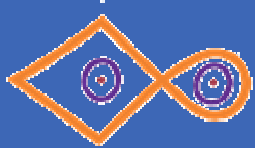
But Most Importantly:



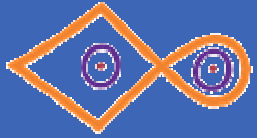
- Promote the right to communicate and use the charter as a tool in this advocacy process.



- Use the African Charter on Broadcasting to develop broadcast and information technology policy and legislative and environments that serve the needs and cultural aspirations of African peoples



The campaign for Charter endorsement at WSIS:



A letter with campaign contact details is available.

