

Promoting Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Empowerment of People: AMARC Salutes World Press Freedom Day

Montréal, 5 May 2008. The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters saluted as a valuable contribution to the recognition of the community sector worldwide by reluctant governments, the adoption of the "Maputo Declaration: Fostering Freedom of Expression Access to Information and Empowerment of People".

The Declaration was adopted for the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, this 3 May 2008 in Maputo, Mozambique by 150 media professionals from around the world. The Declaration emphasizes the importance of freedom of expression and free access to information for participatory democracy as the conclusion of a two-day conference convened by UNESCO and entitled "Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and the Empowerment of People".

AMARC highlights the recognition of the existence of three tiers of broadcasting, including community radio broadcasting emphasizing " the contribution of public service, commercial and community broadcasting to enable all members of society, including marginalized populations, to be heard and take part in the decision-making process".

The Declaration further calls on member States "To create an environment which promotes the development of all three tiers of broadcasting and, in particular, to improve conditions for the development of community media and for the participation of women within the community media framework". To read the Declaration please go to :

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=42324&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

AMARC is an association of community radios with members in over 110 countries. AMARC advocates for the right to communicate at the international, national, local and neighborhood levels; and defends and promotes the interests of the community radio movement through solidarity, networking and cooperation. For further information visit <http://www.amarc.org/>