

The Bogota Declaration

We are in Bogota, Colombia, the heart of the Americas, to celebrate the 25 years of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, AMARC. We are radio producers, activists for communication rights, academics, researchers, women and men working together to make a better world possible through communications and specifically through community radio.

We thank all institutions that shared their ideas, proposals and supported generously this International Conference: Open Society Justice Initiative, Misereor, Intervoces, ADC, OCLACC, ART. 19, ALER, UNESCO; IPYS, CNR, WACC, FIP, FLIP, AMEDI; APC, C3 - FES, EED, CRDI, Universidad Santo Tomás, PCI Media Impact and the Ministry of Communications of Colombia.

AMARC will continue to be a meeting space, a place open to the debate on ideas and a scene where diverse expressions can come together on ideals for justice, solidarity, peace and other values that enlighten the human condition.

From this country that has received us with great hospitality and at the end of this two-Day International conference and following a week-long of knowledge sharing Latin-American seminars, we want to say to the world what we consider essential. Many ideas have circulated, many debates are still going on and many agreements have been taking shape in the last days. Within a pluralistic framework, as the languages through which we have been communicating, as diverse as the continents that have been represented, we gathered with joy, as the African dresses worn by delegates, with faraway smiles from Japan, with local tropical music, WE DECLARE:

On the Right to Communicate and Community Radio Broadcasting

We consider valid, implementable and recommendable, *the Principles for community radio in broadcasting legislation*: the 14 points of these principles summarize what democratic governments should consider and adapt to their cultural, technological and legislative realities. We have decided to present this document to the CIDH (Latin American Human Rights Commission) with the purpose that it becomes an inter-American standard.

We salute the contributions to the research on best practices in legislations and public policies for community radio broadcasting. We find in the scope of 26 countries analyzed all the keys for a society where communities can exert the right to communicate and to express themselves in a free, autonomous and independent manner,

On the Rights of Women and for Gender Equality

We commit ourselves to reactivate the debate on the impact of fundamentalism on women bodies and lives. All discrimination based in gender are warning signs that reinforces our will to support women organizations and put radio at the service of inclusiveness and respect.

We call on the establishment of public policy agendas that include, as clearly as possible, the contributions coming from women organizations, thus reinforcing the human rights agenda.

We will promote a strong and active relationship between community radios and women organizations, articulating spaces for life, bodies, solidarity, tenderness and everyday simple things of life.

We will be alert to support women's organizations in their path to a really equitable world, and for that we will promote, the construction of south-south dialogs and the World Social Forum as the place where to share successes, challenges and coming struggles.

On AMARC Latin America & Caribbean

We ratify the compromise established in Amman, Jordan, for the organization of our World Assembly, AMARC 10.

We propose the establishment of a World Communication Rights Forum as a framework for global debates, where civil society, governments, private institutions and multilateral organizations may discuss communications from the content perspective, their impact and explore the contributions to build a better world.

We adopt the compromise to increase exchanges of sharing radio productions in order to contribute to develop content into our radio agendas and to facilitate grass roots integration contributing to change the information flows that currently stigmatize our peoples and divide us by distorting knowledge of the other.

We call for the definition of a regional agenda allowing for an increased impact in themes we consider fundamental, among others: communication rights, gender, environment protection, migrations and universal rights of indigenous peoples.

We are closing this event with the certainty that the last 25 years have been fruitfull, that the efforts on running transmitters from every corner of the world have not been in vain, for they have allowed us to support the diversity of voices and radio programming.

Our times have seen enormous changes, we are trying to confront them, understand them and to adapt to the needs of our people and communities. The digitalization, the appropriate use of Internet associated technologies as well as the convergence of media, are many challenges and advances we are following with increased awareness and alertness, so they benefit all humanity and not only private profit.

We thank Colombia for its welcoming and we were surprised to find a country that is dynamic, alive, different from the image portrayed by commercial media. A country where we have been able to celebrate and discuss; where radio is a space for peace-building, a purpose supported by all participants from different countries gathered here.

Bogota, Colombia, 29 February, 2008.